TOWN OF FERDINAND REGULAR MEETING March 26, 2024

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 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 was Mark Durcholz, a citizen who requested permission to address the Council.

Debbie moved to approve the Minutes of the February 5, 2024 and February 20, 2024 Council Meetings. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Police Chief Kerri Blessinger thanked Captain Rob Randle for securing a JAG Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Grant for \$16,010.90 to help purchase seven body cameras and accessories and presented him with a plaque to recognize his efforts. Several Ferdinand police officers and family members were present to show their appreciation to Randle. The Council thanked Randle for his initiative and dedication.

Todd Fischer, Electric Superintendent, requested permission to test 75 electric meters for \$175 per meter for \$13,125 and then begin a 3-year rotation for testing. The Council approved testing 25 meters per year for \$4,375 in 2024. Fischer received a quote for a new transformer for \$45,125 (one-year warranty) and a quote for a used transformer for \$24,862 (500 KVA with a 3-year warranty). He is expecting to receive one more quote. Fischer requested permission to order two used transformers for a maximum of \$24,862 each if the other quote came in and it was higher. Ron moved to approve the purchase. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. The Council approved Fischer's request to use a vacant office at the 5th Street Complex for a mapping/training/meeting room for the utility and street departments. Sicard would like a couple of months to clean out the office.

Ben Brinkman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor, requested permission to purchase materials from Utility Supply for Georgia Street from 5th Street to 3rd Street water main for \$23,807.54. Debbie moved to approve the request. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to allow Brinkman to purchase materials from Utility Supply for the water main replacement under Northview Drive for \$70,948.33. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Brinkman requested permission to declare the Vermeer Vac Trailer surplus. Bohnenkemper requested permission to advertise for sealed bids to purchase to be opened at the Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 7:30 PM. Bidders have until April 22 to bid. There would be an undisclosed reserve. Debbie moved to approve the requests. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Brinkman stated hydrant flushing would continue for another two weeks.

At 6:45 PM a hearing was held for the Town Council to consider that Section 7.05.030 "Land Use Regulations" of the Ferdinand Municipal Code should be and is now amended to include a new section (5) with the language covering Special Provisions for Shipping/Cargo Containers, Semi-Trailers for incidental Storage and Similar Storage Structures. The Plan Commission of the Town of Ferdinand gave a favorable recommendation on February 28, 2024. 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 2024-01, 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.

Kim Fischer, Marketing Director, stated the website meeting is on hold until after the Eclipse on April 8.

Mike Becher, Shepherd Insurance Agent, gave an update on the current insurance market. The property liability insurance increase was just under 8%. Debbie moved to allow Sicard to sign off on the EMC Statement of Values. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 7:00 PM a hearing was held for the Town Council to consider the Progressive Investment Company, LLC's request that certain land s within the jurisdictional area of the Town of Ferdinand commonly known as the cultivated field located West of SR 162 and South of 115 S. Main St. be rezoned from (B-2) Commercial to (I) Industrial. The Plan Commission of the Town of Ferdinand did, on the 28th day of February 2024, hold a public hearing to consider the rezoning to the Zoning Ordinance and gave a favorable recommendation to the rezone. 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 2024-02, An Ordinance Rezoning Certain Lands within the Town of Ferdinand, at the meeting it was introduced. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-03, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 04-05,

the Drug and Alcohol Substance Abuse Policy of the Town of Ferdinand, Indiana to Designate an Interim Back Up DER and Appropriately Amend the Salary Ordinance, at the meeting it was introduced. Police Chief, Kerri Blessinger will serve as the lead DER (Designated Employer Representative) and Steve Lechner, interim backup DER and Lechner will receive a .35 per hour increase in pay. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to approve the appointment of Sharon Bohnenkemper to serve as the Title VI Coordinator and the appointment of Police Chief, Kerri Blessinger to serve as the lead DER. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to approve Sicard to sign the documents that will allow us to submit the State Revolving Loan Application (SRLF) for wastewater. Midwest Engineers is preparing the application for the loan program. The documents being signed are the Authorized Representative Resolution authorizing Ken Sicard to be the authorized representative, the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) Acceptance Resolution, the Asset Management Plan Certification Form, and the SRLF Application. The public meeting for the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) will be set for April 23, 2024 at 6 PM, the Regular Town Council Meeting will begin at 7 PM. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Lueken reported Knies Construction is currently working on the CCMG 2023-02 road construction projects (8th Street from Delaware to Alabama, Georgia Street from 5th to 6th and 3rd Street from Alabama to Georgia) and the CCMG 2023-01 & CCMG 2023-02 HMA overlay projects will follow. The 2024-01 CCMG application has been submitted; awards have not yet been made.

Sicard reported nothing new regarding the Local Safety Tax Initiative.

Miller distributed the accounts receivable report to keep the Council informed. Miller reported approximately \$6,500 has been submitted for collection through the State of Indiana TRECS system. \$640 has been collected.

Debbie moved to adopt Resolution 2024-03, A Resolution Providing Support for Administrative Procedures to Assist all Town of Ferdinand Personnel Following a Critical Incident. The CISM Team will include the Police Chief and the Fire Chief. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Debbie moved to ratify the previously signed Client Service Agreement with Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center (MHHCC). Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Brinkman stated that WTH will take over the water customer survey reporting beginning April 10, 2024.

Sicard reported the IOT Cyber Assessment report has been requested by Miller and will be shared with the Council when received.

The Town of Ferdinand's 2024 ADA Transition Plan was presented by Tom Lueken and highlighted by Sicard. Ron moved to approve the Plan. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Bohnenkemper stated once a year the notice of our ADA policy is sent to the Ferdinand News for publication and is posted at Town Hall.

Lueken reported the Town clean-up dates are April 16th for the West Side, 17th for the East Side, & 18th if needed. There are six stickers required for pick-up of a "reasonable amount". The flyer is on the website. There is no trash pick-up on Monday, April 8th due to the eclipse. Regular trash pickup will be on Tuesday, April 9th.

Debbie reported the districts have submitted their proposed project costs for the READI Grants to the IEDC. Once the district awards are announced, there will be a call for applications.

Debbie requested the Council review of the potential consulting contract with Tara Damin with Grant Smith by the Council. Sicard and Ron agreed to review the contract.

Bohnenkemper stated the Plan Commission is putting together a request for proposals for a Comprehensive Plan.

Bohnenkemper gave a recap of the plans for the Eclipse Event for April 8, 2024, from 7 AM to 7 PM at the 18th Street Park stating there will be food trucks, crafts/games for kids, free trees while supplies last, and a kid's canteen with free treats for the kids. Police Chief Blessinger stated the emergency safety plan is complete and they will be using water barricades to route all traffic exiting from the 18th Street Park north to the Industrial Bypass. The Council thanked Bohnenkemper for taking the lead of the Eclipse committee.

Bohnenkemper reviewed the KNU Compliance with Statement of Benefits Real Estate Improvements CF-1. She stated the forms were in substantial compliance with their application and recommended the forms be approved and the President and Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to sign the compliance forms. Debbie moved to approve and sign the annual Compliance Forms. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bohnenkemper reviewed the KFAM Compliance with Statement of Benefits Real Estate Improvements CF-1. She stated the forms were in substantial compliance with their applications and recommended the forms be approved and the President and Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to sign the compliance forms. Ron moved to approve and sign the annual Compliance Forms. Debbie

seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bohnenkemper reviewed the Valley One Compliance with Statement of Benefits Real Estate Improvements CF-1. She stated all forms were in substantial compliance with their applications and recommended the forms be approved and the President and Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to sign the compliance forms. Debbie moved to approve and sign the annual Compliance Forms. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Lueken stated that we received one quote for the painting of the Senior Citizen Center. The quote was higher than the budgeted amount. The painting project is on hold for now.

EV Charger Hold Harmless Agreement has not been received.

Bohnenkemper reported the Dubois County Leadership Academy has eight participants and the first session is April 4, 2024. The Council thanked Bohnenkemper for her work with DCLA,

John Hoppenjans, Fire Chief, reported the cost of eight new Scott SCBA Packs is \$86,920 and carries a lifetime warranty. There are no longer parts available for the packs the department currently uses and the quoted price will increase on April 1. The department received a donation to apply to the cost leaving a balance of \$49,420 which would come out of the fire department's 2024 budget. Miller stated the \$49,420 is not currently in the budget, but could be funded through the Cum Cap Fund by doing an additional appropriation. Ron moved to approve purchasing the packs before the April 1 price increase. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Miller will begin the Additional Appropriation process.

Debbie moved to approve the 2023 Annual Report as filed on Gateway by Miller. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Miller acknowledged that Angie Gerber, Utility Clerk, received the 2024 Administrative Professional of the Year from the Indiana Alliance of Rural Water on March 13, 2024, at French Lick. She will have worked for the Town for 25 years this summer. The Council thanked her for all of the work she does for the Town.

Mark Durcholz addressed the Council. He stated his concern for the speeding in the area of 3rd and Michigan and asked if there might be a stop sign installed to slow traffic. Chief Blessinger stated the increased patrolling in the area has not confirmed the need for a stop sign. Debbie stated the Council decided a stop sign would not be installed when it was discussed at a previous meeting. He also expressed concern for the area around the school at 8th and Michigan and suggested possibly installing speed bumps. Blessinger recommended that he report license plate numbers to authorities

at the time of the occurrence if he sees issues in the future including that the police do currently patrol the school areas during high traffic times.

Miller stated the December 20, 2023 minutes reported the State of Indiana Jag grant for \$4,032 as an advance grant. The grant is a reimbursement grant, not an advance grant and suggested at the 12/20/2023 minutes be amended to reflect that.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Council Public Hearing	Tuesday	April 23, 2024 at 6:00 PM-7PM
Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	April 23, 2024 at 7:00 PM
BZA	Wednesday	March 27, 2024 at 6:30 PM-Cancelled
Plan Commission	Wednesday	March 27, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Park Board	Wednesday	April 10, 2024 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Comm.	Monday	April 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 8:06 PM.

ATTEST:

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk-Treasurer

Tamara MMiller

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



The month of February was filled with preparation for the Eclipse on April 8th. We are anticipating a very busy weekend for Ferdinand due to the yard sale as well as events planned on the 8th. This has included meetings with the staff of the Monastery, Emergency Management Agency, Ferdinand Fire Department, Indiana State Police, and other law enforcement agencies. These meetings discuss possible issues and solutions for keeping the residents of Ferdinand and visiting patrons safe and secure.

On February 14th, several officers attended the Indiana Pipeline Training held in Huntingburg, Indiana. This training educates officers and other first responders regarding gas pipelines in our area and how to respond to these calls. It also discusses the importance of how to report the issues to keep the residents in the area as well as first responders safe.

On February 20th, we hosted a DNA class conducted by the Indiana State Police crime lab. This was open to other members of the law enforcement community and was very informative. This educated our officers on collection of DNA as well as the proper storage of and chain of command. This is the first of a series of classes we will be hosting regarding evidence collection.

On February 27th, several of our officers attended a defensive tactics class hosted here in Ferdinand. This allows area officers to complete mandatory Indiana Law Enforcement Training hours as well as educate them on self defense tactics.

On February 28th, the Dubois County Prosecutor's Office came to our office to hold a training session regarding paperwork, crime investigations, and proper processing and procedures of affidavits of probable cause and report writing. This will be a continued training for officers with the Ferdinand Police Department.

On February 12th and during the following week, the officers of the Ferdinand Police Department received training on how to utilize and function with their Axon Body Cameras. They are fully up and running. Please see attached for additional information.

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	414	E-1 2024	DRAW OLICE
Complaint Type	Total	Complaint Type	Total
Alarm	3	Missing Person Adult/Child	
Animal Complaint	5	Parking Violation	
Assist Other Agency	22	Property Lost/Found/Recovered	2
Battery/ Assault		Protective/Restraining Order	
Burglary (attempted)		Prowler (report of)	
Burning Complaint		Report to Station	4
Child Abuse/Neglect		Return Messages	36
Civil Matter /Dispute	1	State Dispatch	6
Citizen Assist	3	Scam	2
Debris in Roadway	3	Security Check	101
Disabled/Stranded Vehicle	10	Suicide/or a Suicidal Person	
Disturbance/Disorderly Person	1	Suspicious Person/Vehicle	10
Drug Complaint	2	Theft	1
Domestic Problem	2	Traffic Control	3
Escort	2	Traffic Warnings	52
Eviction		Traffic Tickets	5
Extra Patrol	76	Trespassing	
Fight		Threats/ Intimidation	
Finger Printing		Vandalism	
Fire	7	Vehicle Accident	
General Information	18	Vehicle Accident Leaving the Scene	
Gun Permit		Vehicle Check	
Harassment		Sex Offense	1
Hazardous/ Not Chemical		Warrant	
Investigation	3	Weather Related Problems	
Identity Theft		Welfare Check	4
Illegal Dumping		911 false calls	5
Intoxicated Person		Pursuit	
Juvenile Incorrigible/Runaway			
Lines/ Poles Down			
Lost/ Stolen License Plate			
Mental Subject			



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

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

March 26, 2024

To: Captain Robert Randle

Dear Captain Randle,

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincerest thanks for the work and diligence in obtaining the JAG Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Grant for the Axon Body Cameras.

Not only did you complete the Grant paperwork and application, you took the initiative to learn about the offered grant program, completed the needed research, and remained dedicated to the Ferdinand Police Department to obtain the body cameras. This specific grant was one of the first types offered by the State of Indiana to provide agencies with the ability to finance the camera system. The process was a very long and tedious under-taking.

Due to your hard work and dedication, the JAG grant provided over \$16,000.00 to the Town of Ferdinand. This allowed us to purchase 7 body cameras with all needed accessories, the software programs and storage needed, the attachment pieces, and the training for operation of the cameras. This funding made it possible for the Town of Ferdinand to only pay the approximate \$5,000.00 remaining balance of the cost.

As many of you know, body cameras for police officers are of the upmost importance. As policing changes throughout the United States, there have been many policies, lawsuits, and laws affecting modern policing. Most importantly, this aids in keeping our officers safe and gives them another tool.

Again, thank you for the time and energy you took upon yourself to complete and receive this grant. Not only for this grant, but your unwavering dedication to the Ferdinand Police Department.

Your efforts and hard work for you co-workers, the Ferdinand Police Department, and the Town of Ferdinand do not go unnoticed.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Kerri Blessinger, Chief of Police



FERDINAND FIRE DEPT.

221 E. Fourth St. P.O. Box 31 Ferdinand, IN 47532

2024 Summary of Incidents

	FIRE	EMR	TOTAL
JANUARY	3	11	14
FEBRUARY	7	17	24
MARCH			
APRIL			
MAY			
JUNE			
JULY			
AUGUST			
SEPTEMBER			
OCTOBER			
NOVEMBER			
DECEMBER			

Our extrication tools were tested and all passed.

Hoosier Fire notified me that the Scott air packs will be having a price increase on any orders that are after April 1st.

Electric Department Report

Mar. 26, 2024

- No unplanned outage
- Pole change outs east side of main street area
 - Upgraded conductor on 6th Maryland to Delaware st
- Tree trimming for line clearance complete
- Three phase meter testing
 - 25 per year during smart meter changeout program cost \$4375
 - 75 meters will cost \$13,125
- Permission to use office as a training and GIS mapping area for all departments with the cost to be less than \$2000
- Permission to order the transformer for a new development because the lead times are long



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

March 26, 2024

We finished some shoulder work on west 3rd street, Industrial Park, Scenic Hills Dr, East 5th, and East 6th between Florida and Delaware.

We got our new State road salt contract and new amount applied for 2024 and we have our remaining amount we need to accept ordered for delivery just waiting for a delivery date. We need to purchase 80% of the amount contracted by the end of June to avoid storage fees. When I say we I mean mostly Kayla!

Finished our 2024 ADA Transition Plan just need Council approval.

Started mowing off retention pond and with weed control in right-of-ways.

Cleaned and vacuumed out winter debris in all storm inlets.

Removed and cleaned the remaining snow and ice equipment.

Replace some more faded street signs.

Waiting for asphalt planters to open for mix for potholes and utility cuts.



Town of Ferdinand 2065 Main Street PO Box 7 FERDINAND, IN 47532-0007 Phone 812-367-2280 Fax 812-367-1303 townofferdinand@psci.net

Water:

MRO's filed with IDEM

1 Service Leaks

1 March 4, 2024 after hours 4 men 5 hours 2510 Pine Drive Copper Service Line corroded hole

February usage:

Total Gallons	5,903,000
Max.	0,000,000
Day	266,000
Min.	
Day	156,000
Avg.	
Daily	203,552

Wastewater:

Monthly IDEM reports are submitted

Solids discharged 2.2 mg/l per day average Phosphorus levels of .6 mg/l out of a limit of 1 mg/l average

MONTHLY REMOVAL SUMMARY				Total Monthly Flow:		
Percent Removal	BOD5	S.S.	Ammonia	Phosphorus	(million gallons)	9.201
Primary Treatment	NA	NA	The Salary			
Secondary Treatment	NA	NA			Percent Capac	ity
Tertiary Treatment	NA	NA			(actual flow/desig	45%
Overall Treatment	99.3	98.7	99.9	87.7	New York	
Phosphorus limit v	vould be 1	mg/l.	(compliance a	chieved)		

All reports have been filled with IDEM

Asking to surplus the 2009 Vermeer Vac Trailer to put out for sale, Estimated value from dealer is \$25,000-\$33,000.

Ben Brinkman Water/Wastewater Superintendent



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

MONTHLY - Feb-March

Vacation Time

Continued to work with (VIV) on our website - gathering photos and set up

Eclipse Events- (Town & County)

Working with Joe Bird on our interview regarding the Ferdinand Eclipse event as well as all of DuCo.

Main Street Program - Liaison between the town and this new program - will be the head of their PR - working on a facebook page as well as logo for them

Town banners were designed for Spring and they are ready to go up- working with Heimatfest committee on banners for their event.

Working with both billboard companies - trying to get our new designs ready to go up when Eclipse events are over.

Continue to work with Ferdinand Merchants - also on the committee to plan the Ferdinand Annual Banquet

Meetings with Visit Dubois County as part of their board of directors

Waiting on scheduling ribbon cuttings until after the Eclipse event

Social media posts

Kim Fischer

Marketing Director

CERTIFICATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TOWN OF FERDINAND ZONING TEXT

I, Don Foerster, Executive Secretary of the Plan Commission of the Town of Ferdinand, Indiana do hereby certify to the Town Council of the Town of Ferdinand, that the Amendments to the Text of the Zoning Ordinance, true copies of which are attached, was considered and certified with a favorable recommendation by the Plan Commission of the Town of Ferdinand at their meeting held on February 28, 2024, by a vote of seven (7) in favor, zero (0) against, zero (0) abstaining, and two (2) absent and do herewith forward the same to you for your due consideration and approval.

Don Foerster, Executive Secretary

Town of Ferdinand Plan Commission

CERTIFICATION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FERDINAND OF THE FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADVISORY PLAN COMMISSION TO AMEND ZONING MAPS OF FERDINAND

For the purpose of securing adequate safety from fire, flood and other dangers and to promote the public health, safety, comfort, convenience and general welfare and with reasonable regard to the comprehensive plan and current conditions, the character of current structures, the character of current uses, the most desirable use for which lands are adapted, and conservation of property values, responsible development and growth, the Advisory Plan Commission certifies to the Town Council the following proposal for amendment of the Zoning Maps of Ferdinand, Indiana and FAVORABLY RECOMMENDS approval of the same.

I, Don Foerster, Executive Secretary of the Plan Commission of the Town of Ferdinand, Indiana, do hereby certify to the Town Council of the Town of Ferdinand, that the petition of Progressive Investment Company to rezone their property located south of the medical clinic and west of State Road 162, Ferdinand, Indiana from (B-2) Commercial to Industrial was considered and received a FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION from the Plan Commission of the Town of Ferdinand at its meeting held on February 28, 2024, by a vote of six (6) in favor, zero (0) against, one (1) abstaining, and two (2) absent, and do herewith forward the same to you for your due consideration and approval.

Said proposal amends the zoning maps to re-zone the real estate described in the petition and on the attached exhibit from its current classification of (B-2) Commercial to Industrial classification. Attached hereto is a proposed ordinance.

Said proposal is certified to the Town Council after the Public Hearing thereon at 7:00 p.m. on February 28, 2024.

Donald Le Foerster, Executive Secretary
Town of Ferdinand Plan Commission