

TOWN OF FERDINAND

REGULAR MEETING

September 16, 2024

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM on Monday, September 16, 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. Forest Park student, Abbey Sermersheim, was also in attendance.

Debbie moved to approve the Minutes of the August 20, 2024, Town Council Meeting, the August 30, 2024 Special Town Council Meeting, the September 6, 2024 Joint Meeting with Redevelopment Commission and Town Council, and the September 11, 2024 Special Town Council Meeting. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

John Hoppenjans, Fire Chief, stated the Dubois County Advocacy for Recovery & Prevention Council (ARC) will be conducting a drug take back day on Saturday, October 26, from 10 AM–Noon, at the Fire Station located at 221 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

Ron moved to approve Fischer's request for one overnight hotel stay, meals, and transportation for two employees to attend the IMEA Business Meeting on October 9-10, in Bloomington. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to approve Ben Brinkman's request to hire Ryan Oeding, pending a drug test, for the water/wastewater department. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-12, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2023-26 Regarding Salaries, Compensation and Wages for Elected Officials, Appointees and Employees of the Town of Ferdinand. The ordinance approves the pay for Ryan Oeding, Water/Wastewater Laborer, at a rate of \$21.50 per hour, plus an additional \$.50 per hour upon obtaining CDL License; 2 hour minimum at time and a half for emergency calls (once CDL obtained) and two hour minimum at straight time for weekend lab testing, effective September 30, 2024, at the meeting it was introduced. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to approve Brinkman's request for two employees to attend the Indiana Rural Water sponsored Confined Spaces and Trenching Class and transportation, on October 17, in Ellettsville. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Mike Steffe, Park Board Member, stated the Indiana Park and Rec Show will be in French Lick on November 5-7, 2024, and a couple of the board members plan to attend. Sicard stated there

has been vandalism at the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park bathrooms.

Mike Steffe requested approval of the 2024 Monster Dash 5K route to be held on October 26, 2024, at 10 AM. Debbie moved to approve the current 5K route as presented. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Chief Blessinger has accepted the safety plan.

Kim Fisher, Marketing Director, thanked the police and fire departments for participating in the Walktober Fest to be held on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Miller reported the CCMG 2023-01 and CCMG 2023-02 final bills are in the September claims. Miller will work to close out projects with INDOT. CCMG 2024-01 road work will begin in March 2025. CCMG 2024-02 applications have been submitted.

Sicard stated he is continuing to work on the Local Safety Tax Initiative.

Miller distributed the accounts receivable report to keep the Council informed.

Brinkman reminded water customers to return the water customer surveys.

Miller reported the Town's READI 2.0 Grant was submitted Friday, September 13, 2024. The Council thanked Bohnenkemper, Brinkman, Miller, and Tara Damin for their efforts regarding the grant. The grant application was for approximately \$2,000,000, with a Public Match of approximately \$2,000,000 and a Private Match in excess of \$6,000,000. The Grant/Public/Private ratio was 1/1/3 for the Uplands Region.

Sicard stated the Redevelopment Commission held a meeting on September 11, 2024, and Dan Collignon is President. A budget will need to be completed for the RDC.

Johnson stated the comprehensive plan steering committee with TSW will meet on September 25, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the Mobel Room at the Ferdinand Community Center.

Ron moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-13, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2023-26 Regarding Salaries, Compensation and Wages for Elected Officials, Appointees and Employees of the Town of Ferdinand. The ordinance approves the pay Austin Ryan - Street Department Laborer – MVH Fund except as otherwise noted: \$25.45 per hour, 40 hours per week, plus 2 hours minimum at time and half for emergency calls and 2 hour minimum for non-emergency call outs to service parks. Rotation for emergency and non-emergency call outs to commence after the adoption of this ordinance. Despite the transfer to another department, employee is expected to sit for and pass the operator license test (at the wastewater department's expense) and will be given training time (at the wastewater department's expense) to prepare and sit for said test. This amendment is effective with the pay period commencing September 6, 2024, at the meeting it was introduced. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

EV Charger Hold Harmless Agreement has not been returned.

MVH Ton Truck – nothing new to add.

Bohnenkemper will report on the Title VI Plan at the October 22, 2024 meeting.

Miller distributed the ARPA schedule at the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The remaining balance will be used to fund the police Motorola radios.

Council considered trick-or-treating hours for this year. Debbie moved to allow Halloween Trick or Treating during the hours of 5 PM - 7 PM EST on Thursday, October 31, 2024. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to approve the George Meyer Agreement regarding the Town of Ferdinand Water Service Extension and Annexation Waiver and allow Sicard and Miller to sign. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to approve the Legion burn dates for 2024: October 13, November 10 and December 8. 2025 Dates: January 12, February 9, March 9, and April 13. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 7:00 PM the Budget Adoption Hearing was held. Miller stated the Advertised 2025 Budget is \$2,918,425 (2024 was \$2,423,164) with an adopted tax rate of .6438 (2024 adopted rate was .7205, the actual tax rate for 2024 ended up being .5353.) per \$100 of assessed value of \$159,656,614 (2024 was \$142,443,065). The Maximum Levy is \$1,041,988 (2024 was \$1,005,462) an increase of 4%. The 2025 Budget Form 3 was posted on Gateway and is available at [www.budgetnotices.in.gov](http://www.budgetnotices.in.gov). The 2025 budget hearing meeting was held Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. There being no further discussion. Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-14, An Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates as presented. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bohnenkemper requested zoning permits and zoning questions be routed to her office due to a temporary vacancy in that department.

The fall clean-up will take place October 8<sup>th</sup> for the west side, October 9<sup>th</sup> for the east side, and October 10<sup>th</sup> if needed. Details are on the Town website and on Facebook. Flyers are available at Town Hall.

Sicard stated that he met with Renewable Resources, a company offering a residential trash removal service. At this time, the Town is not pursuing this option and will continue the trash pick-up as usual.

There were no bids received for the 2018 Ford Taurus. Miller will contact car dealers to find

out what car dealers will offer.

Johnson stated that Jessica Condra with Region 15, assisted the Town in the successful application of the SS4A (Safe Streets for All) Planning Grant for \$100,000 allowing the Town to create a comprehensive sidewalk plan. The next step would be to apply for an implementation grant to construct sidewalks.

Ron moved to approve the Progressive Investment Company, LLC Performance Bond for the Scenic Hills Development Second Addition and allow Sicard and Miller to sign. The cashier's check for \$22,500 was received from PIC and will be held in the vault. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard reported the Folk Fest is being held on Saturday, September 21, 2024 at 18<sup>th</sup> Street Park in Ferdinand. The headliner is Sam Morrow. Sicard thanked Universal Design Associates for sponsoring the inflatables, the Ferdinand News, and the town employees for their work with the fest.

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

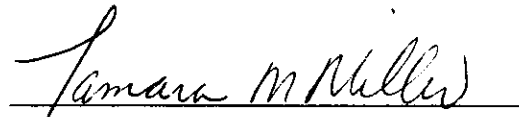
**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Redevelopment Commission	Tuesday	October 22, 2024 at 5:30 PM
Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	October 22, 2024 at 6:30 PM*
BZA	Wednesday	Cancelled
Plan Commission	Wednesday	Cancelled
Framing Ferdinand–Main St Ready Visit	Thursday	September 19, 2024 4:00 PM FCC
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee	Wednesday	September 25, 2024 5:30 PM Mobile Room
Park Board	Wednesday	October 9, 2024 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Commission	Monday	October 28, 2024 at 6:00 PM


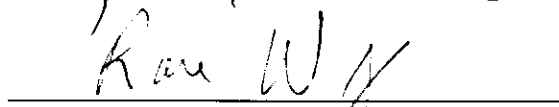
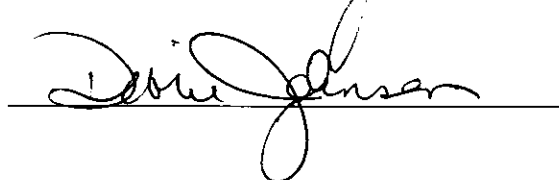
- \*one week later than usual

As there was no further business to discuss, Ron moved to adjourn. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

ATTEST:

  
Clerk-Treasurer

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL

***Ferdinand*** Est. 1905

## ***Police Department***

243 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street Ferdinand, Indiana 47532

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

Chief of Police: Kerri Blessinger Assistant Chief: Christian Gogel



The month of August brought the beginning of school for Forest Park and Ferdinand Elementary. The Ferdinand Police Department provided regular patrol as well as additional grant specific enforcement.

Thankfully, there have been no issues to report.

Ferdinand will host the table-top exercise with the Emergency Management Agency for Dubois County on November 12, 2024 at the Ferdinand Community Center Mobil Room. This exercise will begin the planning and programming for the full-scale physical exercise that will be taking place at Masterbrand in 2025.

These drills/exercises are live action drills to simulate an actual emergency within our community. It will involve all of the disciplines of emergency services including Dispatch, Police, Fire, EMS, and all needed outside resources. It helps us to identify areas of need and improvement as well as areas of success. The last live action drill that was held in Ferdinand was over 15 years ago.

On August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, three officers from the Ferdinand Police Department attended and successfully completed The Cognitive Interview Proficiency Course for the Cognitive Interview. The course included classroom activity as well as actual mock interviews. The class was hosted by Dr. R. Edward Geiselman, the co-developer of the cognitive interview.

Finally, on August 28<sup>th</sup>, the Ferdinand Police Department took part in the Public Safety Day in Jasper, Indiana. This was the first year that our agency has been represented. We look forward to additional participation as it is an excellent opportunity to be seen and influence our community.

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**

<b>Total Calls For Service</b>		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Calls For Service Report</b></p> <p><b>2024 August</b></p> </div>  </div>	
<b>278</b>			
<b>Complaint Type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Complaint Type</b>	<b>Total</b>
Alarm	3	Missing Person Adult/Child	
Animal Complaint	3	Parking Violation	
Assist Other Agency	25	Property Lost/Found/Recovered	
Battery/ Assault		Protective/Restraining Order	1
Burglary (attempted)		Prowler (report of)	
Burning Complaint		Report to Station	2
Child Abuse/Neglect		Return Messages	32
Civil Matter /Dispute		State Dispatch	11
Citizen Assist	1	Scam	
Debris in Roadway		Security Check	56
Disabled/Stranded Vehicle	5	Suicide/or a Suicidal Person	
Disturbance/Disorderly Person	1	Suspicious Person/Vehicle	3
Drug Complaint	1	Theft	3
Domestic Problem	2	Traffic Control	1
Escort	2	Traffic Warnings	31
Eviction		Traffic Tickets	7
Extra Patrol	38	Trespassing	
Fight		Threats/ Intimidation	
Finger Printing		Vandalism	1
Fire		Vehicle Accident	9
General Information	15	Vehicle Accident Leaving the Scene	
Gun Permit		Vehicle Check	1
Harassment	3	Warrant	1
Hazardous/ Not Chemical		Weather Related Problems	
Investigation	1	Welfare Check	2
Identity Theft	1	911 false calls	7
Illegal Dumping		Pursuit	1
Intoxicated Person	1		
Juvenile Incurrigible/Runaway			
Lines/ Poles Down			
Lost/ Stolen License Plate	2		
Mental Subject			



## FERDINAND FIRE DEPT.

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

Ferdinand, IN 47532

### 2024 Summary of Incidents

	<b>FIRE</b>	<b>EMR</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>24</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>21</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
<b>DECEMBER</b>				

The 800 radios that the Dubois County EMA got through a grant are in. We are waiting for them to be installed by Harmonic Electronics.

Tyler Trent has completed his Firefighter 1 practical's and state testing, onto Firefighter 2 classes.



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2065 Main Street  
Ferdinand, IN 47532-0007  
Phone 812-367-2280  
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E-mail: [townofferdinand@psci.net](mailto:townofferdinand@psci.net)  
[www.ferdinandindiana.org](http://www.ferdinandindiana.org)

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## Electric Department Report

Sep. 16, 2024

- One unplanned outage
  - 1 customer 4 hours caused by animal
- 3 phase meter testing is done we are just waiting on the report
- Pole change outs west of Main St
  - 4 kv conversion prep on west side of Main St
  - Installing a Sectionalizer switch on south east feeder to decrease outage time and nuisance trips at substation

KENNETH SICARD, President  
TAMARA M. MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member  
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member





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## Town Council Meeting

September 16, 2024

### **Department Reports:**

With the very dry conditions we did a lot watering and mulching of young trees on Town Properties Christmas and landscape at Town Hall

Did mowing of right of ways and retention ponds along with weed control including side mount mowing along Casey's property tried to reach as much Johnson grass as we could before it went in to seed. We also sprayed Town Properties where some poison hemlock was spotted

Hauled limbs and yard waste another month of heavy drop off

Working with a drainage issue and together with several home owners in Whippoorwill sub division and we are now working installing pipe

Replaced the pavement on 5<sup>th</sup> street at Georgia and the approach to south on Georgia this area had water main repair or replacement

Cleaning out curbs and inlets grass clipping and other debris because the fall leaves are coming down fast. This means we will need to start curb side pickup possibly yet this month start date not determined at this time when we see leaves properly placed at curb side or receiving calls from the Town Office we will start regular pickup on Tuesday's and make one complete pass through town. We will be go our normal trash route this will continue until further notice.

Have an agreement with a property owner on the south side of west Third Street between Alabama and Georgia to reshape the bank of the right of way and needing to get on his property to make it where he could mow it easier and safer

Going to clean the overhangs, porch ceiling and drive through ceiling this schelded for the very near further

KENNETH SICARD, President  
TAMARA M. MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member  
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member



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**Water:**

MROs filed with IDEM

August usage:

Monthly Water Treatment	
Total Gallons	7,548,000.00
Max. Day	336,000.00
Min. Day	194,000.00
Avg. Daily	243483.871

Two service line leaks on main street,  
services have been replaced and meters are being moved outside

3 service line saddle breaks in Whippoorwill Heights  
Replaced with 3 more on the same main needing replaced where storm sewer line  
is going in

Flushing to Start this week

Northview Drive Project to start with in the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 weeks of October, boring expected to take 3 – 5  
days

KENNETH SICARD, President

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Vice President

RONALD WEYER, Member

TAMARA MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

**Wastewater:**

Monthly IDEM reports are submitted

Solids discharged 2.3 mg/l per day average

Phosphorus levels of .8 mg/l out of a limit of 1 mg/l average

MONTHLY REMOVAL SUMMARY					Total Monthly Flow: (million gallons) 8.557
Percent Removal	BOD5	S.S.	Ammonia	Phosphorus	
Primary Treatment	NA	NA			
Secondary Treatment	NA	NA			Percent Capacity
Tertiary Treatment	NA	NA			(actual flow/desig 39%)
Overall Treatment	99.7	99.0	99.9	88.3	
Phosphorus limit would be 1 mg/l. (compliance achieved)					

All reports have been filled with IDEM

**Education:**

Alliance of Indiana Rural Water Confined Space Training and demonstration

Send two employees to Ellettsville, Indiana Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup>

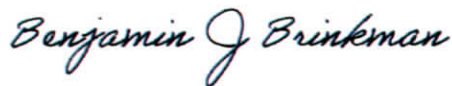
Class is Free, Lunch is Provided, need permission to cover transportation

Class is from 9 am- 3 pm

Southwest Indiana IFA regional meeting is at Ferdinand Community Center Mobil room on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 am.

**Open Postion**

Currently conducting interviews



Ben Brinkman  
Water/Wastewater Superintendent

KENNETH SICARD, President

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Vice President

RONALD WEYER, Member

TAMARA MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

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## September 16th 2024 Town Council Meeting Kim Fischer - Marketing

VIV – Finalizing the website – The website is now ready for review; however, per Debbie, we will hold off on moving forward until the current workload, particularly with grants and other priorities, is alleviated.

Working with Folk Fest Committee on Merchandise Tent from our Framing Ferdinand organization.

Main Street Program - Liaison between the town and this new program – Public Relation Meetings & Department meetings development of website- agendas as well as event planning for Octoberfest Free event.

Officer Meetings – Meeting with Main Street Heads-Jill Hahn this month – working on surveys as well as direction and budget.

Working with both Billboard companies on our new billboards for Christkindlmarkt.

Continue to work with Ferdinand Merchants monthly- planning – Event for Walktoberfest as well as Holiday Events & Christkindlmarkt

Working with Merchants on Annual Community Banquet – follow up meeting “event debrief” on planning and prepping for next year.

Meetings with Visit Dubois County as part of their board of directors - Will be looking at our Ferdinand Tourism grant which is due on Sept 19<sup>th</sup>

Fall Banners completed.

Social media & Instagram Posts – Newspaper & Radio

KENNETH SICARD, President  
TAMARA M. MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member  
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member



**PARKS DEPARTMENT  
TOWN COUNCIL REPORT**

*September 2024*

**General Park Report**

- The park board met on September 11, 2024.
- The board discussed the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park Master Plan and splash pad but have put these two projects on hold.
- Over the past month plus, the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park has been experiencing a rash of vandalism in several parts of the park from damage to building structures as well as using the restrooms inappropriately causing unsanitary conditions. The parks department has been forced to close these restrooms due to this. The police department is aware of the situation and has been assisting with patrols and monitoring.
- The board is exploring a date for a fall weed wrangle date later this year.

Matthew Weyer  
September 14, 2024