

TOWN OF FERDINAND
REGULAR MEETING
November 19, 2024

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, November 19, 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 students, Eross Alcantara, Parker DeLaGrange, Eli Martin, Owen Martin, Joshua Wilhite, Garrett DeLeGrange, Brooklyn Whitecotten, Kendra Ubelhor, Ben Ebert, Reece Wolf, Tanner Englert, Talon Rohleder, Jackson Kreilein, Issac Mohr, Haven Weyer, Olivia Bell, Madison Lindauer, Hannah Schulz, Mallory Crowley, Carrington Persohn, Emma La Grange, Zach Kissel, and Brock Schuler were also in attendance.

Police Chief Robert Randle, introduced four new police officers. Zander Poole and Winston Glenn will be attending the academy mid-January 2025. Chase Snider is a certified officer and will be starting in December. Alfred Braunecker is a certified officer and was not able to attend tonight. All officers were given contingent offers of employment (they must pass the psychological test, stress test and drug screening prior to employment).

Ron moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-19, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2023-26 Regarding Salaries, Compensation and Wages for Elected Officials, Appointees and Employees of the Town of Ferdinand. Two Full-time Patrolmen – Chase Snider and Alfred Braunecker – night shift, \$25.00 per hour and an extra \$1.14 night shift differential; 168 hours per pay period. Employment to commence during the pay period when the favorable test results have been obtained. Full time is 168 hours per work period. Two Full-time Patrolmen who will be sent to the academy- Winston Glenn and Zander Poole - \$23.00 per hour until graduation from the academy; an extra \$1.00 when graduated from the academy, and an extra \$1.14 night shift differential (when applicable), at the meeting it was introduced. Employment to commence during the pay period when the favorable test results have been obtained. Full time is 168 hours per work period. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to approve the Minutes of the October 22, 2024, Town Council Meeting, Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

John Hoppenjans, Fire Chief, requested the hiring of Dakota Wiltbank to the fire department, subject to passing the drug test. Ron moved to approve. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Brinkman recommended the acceptance of the quotes for water towers maintenance. Pittsburg Tank & Tower Group's quote for the 400,000 Gallon Elevated Tank (interior and exterior renovation) for \$328,740 and McGuire Water's quote for the Chapel Hill 500 MG Tank interior maintenance for \$113,500. Ron moved to accept the quotes. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bohnenkemper stated that she will contact Jenna Bieker Jones to see if she will serve another term with the BZA and she stated Ryan Becher's term on the Plan Commission will expire at year end. Becher will be asked at the Plan Commission meeting tomorrow if he is willing to serve another term.

Robert Randle stated the new 2025 Durango order has been placed (delivery in 3-4 months) and the two Chargers have been delivered as trade-ins toward the new Durango.

Miller stated the Taurus is currently being used by departments for training and suggested any potential sale be postponed until Spring 2025.

Lueken stated that CCMG 2024-01 road work will begin in the Spring of 2025. The Town was awarded CCMG 2024-02 for \$776,949.30. The Town's match is 25% for \$258,983.10. The total project cost is \$1,035,932.40. The roads include 16th Street from Main Street to the end of the Cul-De-Sac; 15th Street from Main Street to Michigan Street; 18th Street from Main Street to the End of Cul-De-Sac and Mississippi from Main Street to the End of Town Property. Bohnenkemper stated the bidding process will likely be at the February 2025 meeting. Ron moved to adopt Resolution 2024-10, 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 is continuing to work on the Local Safety Tax Initiative.

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

Brinkman stated 220 final water survey requests were mailed before the December 1st deadline. His department is willing to help homeowners complete the survey.

Cyber Security Update – nothing to report.

Debbie reported the Town did participate in a second-round interview with the READI Housing Committee via Zoom on November 15. We are hoping to hear if the Town will be awarded READI 2.0 Grant funds before the end of 2024.

Johnson stated the comprehensive plan steering committee held a public meeting with TSW on November 6, 2024, at 6-8 pm at the Ferdinand Community Center. The survey is available on the Town website. TSW will be getting in touch with the high school to gather input from students.

EV Charger Hold Harmless Agreement has not been returned and will be taken off the

agenda.

Lueken stated the 2025 MVH Ton Truck is in Jasper and will be delivered soon.

The Title VI Plan will be addressed at the December Town Council meeting.

Bohnenkemper stated the billboard contract with Lamar has been signed and we are waiting on the JR Promotions, LLC contract.

At 7:00 PM Sicard opened the Electric Rate Ordinance public meeting. Robert Reynolds, with LWG, who prepared the electric rate study joined the meeting by telephone. The current electric provider contract will expire in June 2026. Reynolds explained raising rates in light of the anticipated increased power cost will lessen the impact of the increase in the upcoming years on customer rates. The proposed 8% electric increase would result in about a \$6.55 increase per month for a 750 KW user. The rates will still be lower than most electric rates in the area. Reynolds recommended reviewing the rates annually. The rate would take effect December 10, 2024, and be reflected on the January 25, 2025 bill which is due February 10, 2025. There being no questions from the audience, Ron moved to close the public hearing. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Ron moved to adopt the Electric Rate Ordinance 2024-17, An Ordinance amending Chapter 10.33 of the Ferdinand Municipal Code Regarding Electric Rates and Charges. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ferdinand Community Christmas will be held on December 2, 2024, at the Ferdinand Community Center (FCC) from 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM. Debbie thanked the FCC and the Iota Lambda Chapter of the Psi Iota Xi for their contributions to the event. The dance team, the elementary school choirs and the CCI choir will perform.

Universal Design Associates is working on the Preliminary Engineering for a sidewalk/trail from the High School property to the Old Town Lake. Nothing new to report.

The Fire Protection Contract with Ferdinand Township was approved for \$46,000 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: \$23,000 payable on June 30, 2025, and \$23,000 on December 30, 2025.

The Use of Municipal Public Parks Contract with the Ferdinand Township was approved for \$35,000 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: \$17,500 on June 30, 2025 and \$17,500 on December 30, 2025.

Debbie moved to approve the 2025 Water, Electric and Sewer budgets as previously distributed by Miller. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved appoint Beverly Schulthise as the Representative of Ferdinand to Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission for another 1-year term. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard stated that FerdinandCommons.com is independent of the Town of Ferdinand.

Ferdinand Senior Citizens Center renovation is complete and available to rent. Miller would like to rename the center to make it more marketable, suggestions are welcome.

Debbie moved to approve the Street Lighting Agreement Modification 2024 with Dubois REC. Dubois REC territory includes street lights within the Town. The Town agrees to pay Dubois REC a monthly fee to help cover the cost of new aluminum poles as Dubois REC replaces the aged wooden poles. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Nepotism forms have been received by Miller.

Ken moved to allow the Council to sign a letter of support for the Southern Indiana Resilience Network. This project is being sponsored by the Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement, the Southwestern Indiana Citizens for Quality of Life and the Sisters of Saint Benedict. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.


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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	December 17, 2024 at 6:30 PM
BZA	Wednesday	November 20, 2024 at 6:30 PM Cancelled
Plan Commission	Wednesday	November 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee		
Park Board	Wednesday	December 11, 2024 at 4:30 PM
Redevelopment Commission	Tuesday	December 17, 2024 at 5:30 PM
Economic Development Commission	Monday	January 27, 2025 at 6:00 PM


As there was no further business to discuss, Ron moved to adjourn. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.


ATTEST:




Clerk-Treasurer

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL







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 October has brought about several changes for the Ferdinand Police Department.

1. The second FLOCK camera was ordered and will be placed in Ferdinand after the DOT permits are complete.
2. Motorola radios with 800 MH and cellular capabilities were ordered. They should be in at the beginning of December. All other wireless service was switched to Verizon wireless.
3. The new police car has been ordered. It will be up fitted and ready for service in approximately 3 months.
4. The Ferdinand Police Department has been in the process of hiring 4 officers. This process has been completed and is in the final phases. Chief Rob Randle will be making the announcements at this meeting for approval.
5. Chief Kerri Blessinger's last day will be November 18, 2024. Chief Rob Randle will be taking Chief Command November 19, 2024. The changing of the guard has been going well. Rob and I are working together to make sure the changeover transition is smooth.
6. Preparation for the 2024 Chriskindlemarkdt is complete. The safety plan was emailed to EMA and all needed parties. We will have additional units covering the town for the festivities.
7. All officers have now completed not only the required training hours for the year but additional training hours as well. The last block of instruction is set for early December. This month officers attended Emergency Vehicle Operations which trained on emergency driving and stop stick deployment. Several officers also attended training for Certified Instructor Recertification.
8. On October 26th, the Ferdinand Police Department participated in the drug collection program for Dubois County. During this time, we collected pounds of prescription medications to be disposed of by Dubois County Solid Waste. It was a very successful program and will keep the drugs out of the water supply as well as be disposed of properly.

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: Robert Randle

Total Calls For Service		Calls For Service Report	
			
Complaint Type	Total	Complaint Type	Total
Alarm	8	Missing Person Adult/Child	1
Animal Complaint	7	Parking Violation	1
Assist Other Agency	2	Property Lost/Found/Recovered	
Battery/ Assault		Protective/Restraining Order	
Burglary (attempted)	1	Prowler (report of)	
Burning Complaint	1	Report to Station	3
Child Abuse/Neglect		Return Messages	37
Civil Matter /Dispute		State Dispatch	2
Citizen Assist	4	Scam	1
Debris in Roadway		Security Check	64
Disabled/Stranded Vehicle	8	Suicide/or a Suicidal Person	9
Disturbance/Disorderly Person	3	Suspicious Person/Vehicle	
Drug Complaint	1	Theft	2
Domestic Problem	2	Traffic Control	
Escort	2	Traffic Warnings	15
EMS	17	Traffic Tickets	
Extra Patrol	31	Trespassing	
False call	12	Threats/ Intimidation	
Finger Printing	1	Vandalism	1
Fire	3	Vehicle Accident	10
General Information	21	Vehicle Accident Leaving the Scene	
Gun Permit		Vehicle Check	5
Harassment		Rapid SOS	2
Hazardous/ Not Chemical		Warrant	3
Investigation	6	Weather Related Problems	
Identity Theft		Welfare Check	12
Illegal Dumping		911 false calls	
Intoxicated Person		Pursuit	
Juvenile Incurrigible/Runaway			
Lines/ Poles Down	1		
Lost/ Stolen License Plate			
Mental Subject			



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	3	14		17
APRIL	6	7		13
MAY	4	9		13
JUNE	4	12		16
JULY	8	13		21
AUGUST	3	15		18
SEPTEMBER	6	7		13
OCTOBER	4	13		17
NOVEMBER				
DECEMBER				

We had pump testing and other than some minor fixes everything passed.

We did our annual Fire Prevention Day at the grade school.

We also had the Boy Scouts and the touch a truck day at the station.

Drug take back day was also held at the station county wide took in 374 lbs., roughly 528 residents. No specific number for Ferdinand.

Birdseye took possession of the cascade compressor and air bottles.

Would recommend the council hiring Dakota Wiltbank upon completion of drug test, so he could officially start Jan. 1 2025.

Electric Department Report

Todd Fischer Electric Superintendent

Nov 19, 2024

- 3 unplanned outages
 - Animals caused all three
- Training with the fire department for bucket truck rescue and downed power line safety
- Pole change outs in backyards
 - Trailer park
 - East side of main
 - Log yard
- Pole change outs west of Main St
 - 4 kv conversion prep on west side of Main St



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www.ferdinandindiana.org

November 19, 2024
Department Reports:

Tom Lueken Street Dept Superintendent

Added storm pipe and pavement on the west side of Scenic Hills DR. at 3rd street. one section of the pipe was crushed from all the trucks having to cut the corner when traffic is coming from the north on Scenic Hills Dr. so with another warehouse being built the truck will definitely increase. This is the reason we replaced the broken pipe and added an additional 8 foot to provide drivers the space needed to make the turn without going over the end of the pipe.

Working on a drainage issue together with several home owners in Whippoorwill sub division installing pipe but we are now at a standstill hopefully we can started again real soon. The water department determined the service tap saddles were bad they replaced a couple of them and need to replace two more before we can go ahead.

We patch pot holes around Town we wanted to get the patching done now while the asphalt plants are still up and running for the season. Hot mix seems to work and last better and cheaper than waiting and having to use cold mix.

We are in the weeks for the heaviest leaf drop and curb side pickup we are picking up serval days a week trying to keep up the last couple rains didn't help our cause.

With the focus on leaf pick up the limb and yard waste drop off site is getting rather full so when leaf pick up starts to slow we catch up with hauling them off.

It is also getting the time of the year we need make sure our snow and ice equipment is in good working condition. We will start and run all our spreaders hook plows make sure hydraulics and lights are working.

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

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member



Town of Ferdinand
2065 Main Street
PO Box 7
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Phone 812-367-2280
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Water:

MROs filed with IDEM

Northview Main

Bacteria Samples passed

Service Lines Starting to go in this week

October

Monthly Water Treatment	
Total Gallons	7,386,000.00
Max. Day	322,000.00
Min. Day	164,000.00
Avg. Daily	238258.0645

KENNETH SICARD, President

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Vice President

RONALD WEYER, Member

TAMARA MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

Wastewater:

Three Sewer inspections this month

Monthly IDEM reports are submitted

Solids discharged 2.1 mg/l per day average

Phosphorus levels of .9 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) 7.456
Primary Treatment	NA	NA			
Secondary Treatment	NA	NA			Percent Capacity
Tertiary Treatment	NA	NA			(actual flow/design) 36%
Overall Treatment	99.7	99.4	99.9	88.2	
Phosphorus limit would be 1 mg/l. (compliance achieved)					

All reports have been filled with IDEM

Education:

Clint Meyer passed his Drinking Water Distribution test.

Ryan Oeding to Start CDL course November 25th

Benjamin J Brinkman

Ben Brinkman
Water/Wastewater Superintendent

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November 2024 Town Council Meeting Kim Fischer - Marketing

VIV – Finalizing the website – Continuing to clean up... working on written instructions for site updates for employees.

Main Street Program - Liaison between the town and this program –
Public Relation Meetings & Department meetings development of website- agendas as well as event planning for Ferdinand Community Christmas.
Interview with WBDC regarding Framing Ferdinand and it's formation.

Radio and WJTS interviews for Christkindlmarkt

Billboard – Eastbound contract signed and new billboard is designed for January.

Continue to work with Ferdinand Merchants monthly- planning – Holiday Open House & Christkindlmarkt & Small Business Saturday

Meetings with Visit Dubois County as part of their board of directors -
Voting on Tourism grants ~ Announcing winner soon!

Spoke with Todd Fischer regarding Christmas banners on behalf of merchants. They would like to have décor up by Nov 2nd Open House in Ferdinand.

Excited to work with the Ferdinand Community Christmas, advertising as well as working the event.

Working with Christkindlmarkt on promoting – working their new ice skating rink.

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**

November 2024

General Park Report

- The Park Board met on November 13, 2024.
- The Park Board and the Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District hosted another Weed Wrangle on Saturday, November 9th at the Old Town Lake to remove invasive plants around the park property. We had a great turnout and appreciate all of those who participated.
- The board approved replacements of several broken pieces of playground equipment at fifth St park playground as well as purchasing a Freedom Swing which will allow children of all ages and abilities the freedom to swing.
- The board approved the purchase of two new basketball goals for the 18th Street Park.

Matthew Weyer
November 16, 2024