

TOWN OF FERDINAND

REGULAR MEETING

May 20, 2025

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 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.

Debbie moved to approve the Minutes of the April 15, 2025, Town Council Meeting. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Brian Seffernick, Assistant Police Chief, requested permission to send Detective Jones to a 3-day detective criminal investigation class in Avon, IN from July 8-10. The cost of the class is \$325, hotel \$330, meals, and use of the police car. Seffernick also requested to send Chief Randle to the Caliber Mobile RMS Conference in Indianapolis on June 17th and 18th. The conference and lunches are free. The hotel will cost \$266, and he will need use of his police car. Lastly, Seffernick requested approval to send Randle to NRA patrol rifle school September 15-19th in Newburgh. The cost of the class is \$450, meals, and use of police car. This will complete Randle's firearms instructor requirements. Ron moved to approve the requests. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

John Hoppenjans, Fire Chief, requested permission to advertise for volunteer firefighters. The new firefighter classes start in August. Ken moved to approve the request. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Todd Fischer, Electric Superintendent, stated Alpha Engineering has sent the RFP to six vendors. Fischer hopes to get competitive electric rate bids back before September. Mitch Konerding officially finished his apprenticeship program on May 6, 2025. Sicard retroactively moved to approve Konerding attending the "top out" IMEA journeyman exam in Rensselaer for 3 days, use of car, and meals while at the exam. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Todd Fischer requested all electric, water, sewer, and street departments to attend the Utility Expo in Louisville on October 7, 8, and 9. The employees would take turns attending different days so departments have adequate coverage. The cost is \$60 per person. Ron moved to approve the request. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Fischer requested permission to advertise for an intern to work for the Town through a school program as the Town's 2024-2025 intern, Hudson Hayes, has graduated. This person would help do

small tasks for the electric department, but could also help the street/park department with mowing. Debbie moved to approve the request. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to approve Fischer's request to order a transformer and a spare transformer for the car charging station that will be installed on the south side of Town after the Town receives fully executed documents approved by the Town's attorney, Bohnenkemper. The car charger company will reimburse the Town for the cost of the two transformers \$50,060. The lead time for the transformers is 22 weeks. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to salvage approximately 900 old surplus electric meters. The meters will be sold for approximately \$5.00 per meter to the Town's meter vendor. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ben Brinkman stated the west water tank is back online and needs a few paint touch-ups to complete the project. Brinkman requested to send Brian Hoffman, Ryan Oeding, Austin Ryan, Kyle Lechner, Steve Becher, and Clint Meyer to the AWWA Southern Operator Symposium at Huntingburg Utility Supply on June 26. The cost is \$90 per person and gives the operators 7 CCU credits. Ron moved to approve the request for the employees to attend with use of town vehicles. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Matt Weyer, Park Board President, requested the Council appoint Andrew Berg to the Park Board. Debbie moved to approve the request. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to allow Tom Lucken to advertise for a seasonal park mowing position. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The Town solicited requests for SS4A qualifications (RFQ's) from engineering firms. The committee assigned to review the RFQ's consists of: Debbie Johnson, Jessica Condra, Tammy Miller, and Sharon Bohnenkemper. The committee will review the RFQ's to ensure they meet the requirements and narrow down the companies to interview for SS4A engineering services. At 7 PM, the RFQ's were opened. The five RFQ's received by the published deadline were: Lochmueller Group, HWC Engineering, Kaskaskia Engineering Group LLC, Toole Design, and Rundell Ernstberger Associates. The committee will take the RFQ's under advisement, decide which applicants to interview, and report back to the Council.

Ron moved to allow Ken Sicard to sign the form SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance and also allow Ken Sicard to sign the SS4A Grant Agreement, an implementation and planning grant, when it is received. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Kim Fischer stated the Community in Bloom event was a success. She thanked Town

employees who helped make the event possible.

Sicard stated the Redevelopment Commission did not meet this month.

Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-4 Amending the Ferdinand Municipal Code Chapter 1.10 Entitled Policy and Procedure for the Use of the Ferdinand Senior Citizens Center. This amendment will change the daily rental rate to \$140.00 (including tax) for leases executed after July 1, 2025. Renters will also be required to obtain a certificate of insurance. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

CCMG 2024-01 has been completed.

CCMG 2024-02 Knies Construction is going to begin work the first week of June. Knies will start on 15th Street, Mississippi Street, and 18th Street Park cul-de-sac. Knies, Universal, Sharon Bohnenkemper, and Tom Lueken will have a preconstruction meeting onsite on Wednesday.

Sicard stated the Local Safety Tax Initiative is no longer an option and can be removed from the agenda.

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

Brinkman stated Kyle Lechner is working on the remaining water surveys.

Sicard stated he and Miller had a cyber security meeting with Eck Mundy who is preparing a proposal for a cyber security plan. We have not yet received the proposal.

Debbie stated we are still awaiting news regarding the READI 2.0 grant.

Debbie stated that the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee met with TSW on May 13, 2025, at 6:00 PM at Town Hall. The committee is awaiting the preliminary Comprehensive Plan to review.

Jessica Condra with Region 15 is working on a grant application due in October for the sidewalk/trail from the High School property to the Old Town Lake. A zoom meeting with DNR took place at Universal Design Associates with all involved parties.

Sicard stated that SB-1 Property Tax Reform passed that could potentially reduce the Town's property tax revenue in future years. The tax revenue reduction is not as drastic as first introduced. AIM is keeping everyone up to date on the bill. Sicard plans to meet with AIM on next steps.

Debbie moved to accept Field View Drive, Fawn Hill Court, and parts of Missouri Street in the Hidden Meadows subdivision into the Town's road inventory. Ron seconded motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-05 amending Ordinance 2024-22 Regarding Salaries, Compensation, and Wages for Elected Officials, Appointees, and Employees of the Town

of Ferdinand changing the allocation of Austin Ryan's salary to 90% park department, 10% sewer department, effective for the payroll ending April 17, 2025. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The deadline to start livestreaming public meetings is July 1, 2025. The Town of Ferdinand will comply with the requirement.

Miller presented budget meeting dates to the Town Council. The dates are for Friday, June 27th at 6AM with department heads; Tuesday, August 19th budget hearing at 7 PM; Tuesday, September 16th budget adoption at 7 PM.

At 7:00 PM a sewer rate increase Ordinance, 2025-06, was introduced, an Ordinance Amending Section 10.08.030 of the Ferdinand Municipal Code Regarding Sanitary Sewer Service User Rates and Charges. The last sewer rate increase was over nine years ago. LWG CPA's and Advisors has prepared a sewer rate study based on 2024 actual data and 2025 budgeted data. Midwest Engineers prepared a Preliminary Engineering Report detailing the probable project costs that need to be completed for the wastewater system. Based on this information, the increase is necessary to continue to operate the plant in a safe and efficient manner. The first rate increase would be effective July 10, 2025 and the second increase would be effective June 10, 2026. The public hearing was set for June 17, 2025 at 7 PM.

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

There will be an Ida Hagen commemoration at 11:00 AM on Saturday, May 31st at the Wollenman House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Redevelopment Commission	Tuesday	June 17, 2025 at 5:30 PM
Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	June 17, 2025 at 6:30 PM
BZA	Wednesday	May 28, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Plan Commission	Wednesday	May 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Park Board	Wednesday	June 11, 2025 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Commission	Monday	July 28, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Comprehensive Plan Committee		
Town Council Budget Meeting	Friday	June 27, 2025 at 6:00 AM
Town Council Budget Hearing	Tuesday	August 19, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Town Council Budget Adoption	Tuesday	September 16, 2025 at 7:00 PM

As there was no further business to discuss, Ron moved to adjourn. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

ATTEST:

Tamara M Miller

Clerk-Treasurer

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL

Ken Smead

Debra Jensen

Ron Wj

Ferdinand Est. 1905

Police Department

243 West 10th Street Ferdinand, Indiana 47532

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

Chief of Police: Robert H. Randle Assistant Chief: Brian Seffernick



April 2025 Departmental Report:

I attended Indiana Law Enforcement Academy Chief of Police Executive Training Program, and completed the training.

The Ferdinand police Department assisted Ferdinand Elementary with their walk to school.

We also Attended Ferdinand Elementary with their Career Day taking a full marked Dodge Charger and allowing the kids to look around inside the car and see the lights and speak with myself. Town was well represented by Ferdinand employees.

We also prepared the Dubois County EMA drill that is coming in May.

May is shaping up to be extremely busy.

I will be seeking permission for the following items:

Seeking permission to Send Detective Rayce Jones to 3-day New Detective and New Criminal Investigator school in Avon Indiana on July 8th, 9th, 10th. The cost is \$325.00 for the class, The cost for the hotel would be \$330.00, bringing the total to \$655.00, plus meals and use of the car. This class is limited to 20 students only.

Seeking permission to send myself to the Caliber Mobile/RMS Conference in Indianapolis on June 17th and 18th. The Conference is free to attend, and lunches are provided during the conference. I am requesting a 2-night hotel stay to attend at a cost \$266.00, use of the car, and meals.

Seeking permission to send myself to the NRA Patrol rifle school in Newburgh Sept 15th through the 19th. SILECT is covering half the cost, bringing the price down to \$450.00 for the week. I would need use of the car and meals only. This class will finish my firearms instructor training. This class is limited to 20 students only.


Ferdinand Police Department

243 W 10th Street, Ferdinand Indiana 47532

Phone: 812-482-9150 / Fax: 812-998-2094

Chief of Police: Rob Randle

Assistant Chief: Brian Seffernick

Total Calls For Service	290	<div style="text-align: center;"> April 2025 Calls For Service Report  </div>	
Complaint Type	Total	Complaint Type	Total
Alarm		Missing Person Adult/Child	
Animal Complaint	6	Parking Violation	5
Assist Other Agency	21	Property Lost/Found/Recovered	1
Battery/ Assault	1	Protective/Restraining Order	
Burglary (attempted)		Prowler (report of)	
Burning Complaint		Report to Station	3
Child Abuse/Neglect		Return Messages	28
Civil Matter /Dispute		State Dispatch	10
Citizen Assist	2	Scam	1
Debris in Roadway	2	Security Check	21
Disabled/Stranded Vehicle		Suicide/or a Suicidal Person	1
Disturbance/Disorderly Person	3	Suspicious Person/Vehicle	3
Drug Complaint		Theft	3
Domestic Problem		Traffic Control	2
Escort	3	Traffic Warnings	70
Eviction		Traffic Tickets	15
Extra Patrol	6	Trespassing	
Fight		Threats/ Intimidation	
Finger Printing		Vandalism	
Fire	1	Vehicle Accident	8
General Information		Vehicle Accident Leaving the Scene	
Gun Permit		Vehicle Check	4
Harassment		UTV Permit	3
Hazardous/ Not Chemical		Warrant	3
Investigation	2	Weather Related Problems	
Identity Theft		Welfare Check	4
Illegal Dumping		911 false calls	7
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

2025 Summary of Incidents

	FIRE	EMR		TOTAL
JANUARY	8	19		27
FEBRUARY	1	11		12
MARCH	10	6		16
APRIL	5	11		16
MAY				
JUNE				
JULY				
AUGUST				
SEPTEMBER				
OCTOBER				
NOVEMBER				
DECEMBER				

We along with Police and EMA hosted the county wide disaster drill at MBCI plant 4 on May 10th.

We have received and put in service 8 more SCBA Scott packs. That leaves us with only 3 more to replace.

We hosted the Boy Scouts at the station one for a tour and demonstration for them to receive a merit badge.

Electric Department Report

May 20, 2025

- 1 unplanned outage
 - West third st 1 hour
- Pole change outs
 - 3rd east of main
 - Saw mill riser
- Yearly tree trimming continuing
 - 6 danger trees removed
 - Line clearance
- Mitch attended “Top out” exam in Rensselaer for IMEA journeyman exam



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www.ferdinandindiana.org

May 20, 2025

Department Reports:

We patch some potholes that show up after the freeze and thaw winter weather.

We had our Town wide large item spring cleanup it was reported to me it went pretty good no changes need to be made to the guide lines or rules as of now.

We are keeping up with the removal of yard waste and limbs at the 23rd street yard drop site.

We did some side ditch work along Scenic Hills Dr. this was needed to create better storm water flow

We are mowing and doing weed control along road right-of-ways and Town owned retention ponds.

Planted 13 more 2-3/8" to 2-3/4' caliber trees replacing some that died or were destroyed by storms 11 at 5th street 2 at 18th street Park.

Reset or straighten several road signs damaged by last month storms.

We painted several stop bars, handicap parking spots and some curb markings areas that had been painted but faded away.

Added curb stops at the new parking lot to avoid people leaving the Town Attorney/EMS lot driving through the grass to the fire station lot

We need to seed and straw the storm drain project started last fall in Whippoorwill but are waiting for a water leak to be repaired.

We are doing our best trying to half way keep up with mowing, trimming and weed control in the parks and other Town owned properties along with maintenance, litter control, cleaning restrooms, taking care of all athletic fields and prepping shelter houses for rentals. May starts the busy time for double bookings of shelter houses and ball tournaments which requires weekend call in's. The spring and summer will be a big challenge.

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
FERDINAND, IN 47532-0007
Phone 812-367-2280
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townofferdinand@psci.net

Water:

MROs filed with IDEM

Monthly Water Treatment	
Total Gallons	5,685,000
Max. Day	244,000
Min. Day	159,000
Avg. Daily	189,500

West Tank is refilled, waiting on 2nd Bac-T sample results

Pittsburg will have to come back and do some touch up work on the Tank

Rock is being removed from Temporary easement

IDEM inspection on May 5th,

Only issue was the Emergency Response Plan was not up to date.
Response plan has been updated and resubmitted

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 8.1 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: (million gallons)
Percent Removal	BOD5	S.S.	Ammonia	Phosphorus	17.52
Primary Treatment	NA	NA			Percent Capacity (actual flow/design) 83%
Secondary Treatment	NA	NA			
Tertiary Treatment	NA	NA			
Overall Treatment	98.3	94.1	99.8	82.2	
Phosphorus limit would be 75 % removal. (compliance achieved)					

Education:

July 26th, AWWA Southern Operator Symposium at Huntingburg Utility Supply

Cost is \$90 Per Person, includes 7 hours of CEUs

Permission to send 4 Operators and 2 Apprentices

A-Brian Hoffman

A-Ryan Oeding

O-Kyle Lechner

O- Austin Ryan

O-Steve Becher

O-Clint Meyer

Benjamin J Brinkman

Ben Brinkman

Water/Wastewater Superintendent

KENNETH SICARD, President

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Vice President

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TAMARA MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

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May, 2025 - Town Council Meeting Kim Fischer - Marketing

VIV – Website Maintenance – Continuing clean -up/updates – Zoom meetings.

Banners – Banner refresh (Summer Banners)

West Bound & East Bound – Billboard Designs Completed and Displayed

Main Street Program - Liaison between the town and Framing Ferdinand.

Framing Ferdinand Board Meetings – Community Agendas
Framing Ferdinand PR Meetings – promotions and planning on continued events
Website – Framing Ferdinand. maintenance and additions
Working on new May Event for Framing Ferdinand – Community in Bloom- meeting with each merchant and promoting. – Met with town employees on set up for event at Wollenmann House
Radio Promotion – Community in Bloom
Attended – Careers on Wheels – Ferdinand Elementary

Framing Ferdinand – research for upcoming Event in 2026
Grant Proposal – Dubois County Foundation
Grant Proposal – (2) Sustaining Rural Communities

Continue to work with Ferdinand Merchants monthly- planning – promoting

Meetings with Visit Dubois County as part of their board of directors -
Working with them on proposals that involve town of Ferdinand- AI information

Working with Tourism committee on new pyramid project & Ida Hagan event.

Community Banquet – committee member & promotions

Zoom on Removing & Litigating Negative Online Reviews on social media – restructured our statement on our Facebook page and added to our website.

Social media & Instagram Posts – Newspaper & Radio