

TOWN OF FERDINAND
REGULAR MEETING
March 17, 2026

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, in the Ferdinand Town Hall. Present were Council President, Ken Sicard; Vice-President, Debbie Johnson; Council Member, Ron Weyer; Sharon Bohnenkemper, Attorney; and Clerk-Treasurer, Tamara Miller.

Sicard stated, this meeting is being recorded. This is a reminder this meeting is being live streamed and recorded. Your attendance at this meeting is your consent to be live streamed, recorded and rebroadcast on the Town's website. If you have any electronic devices, please put them on airplane mode. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ron moved to approve the Minutes of the February 17, 2026, Town Council Meeting and the February 26, 2026, Special Meeting. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to approve Ordinance 2026-03, an Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2025-25, Regarding Salaries, Compensation and Wages for Elected Officials, Appointees and Employees, at the meeting it was introduced. The Ordinance approves the hiring Scott Berg and Deane Verkamp as part-time/seasonal mowers at \$18.00 per hour, each working 20 hours per week during the mowing season, upon passing a pre-employment drug screen. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to approve the purchase of a John Deere 4066 tractor and loader along with a finish mower from Hutson John Deere through a State contract. Five departments will use the tractor. The cost is \$69,794.10, after the trade-in of our New Holland Tractor with a value of \$8,500, or \$13,958.82 per department. All departments have money in their budget to cover the expense. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ben Brinkman, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, provided an update on the Leiberling project. The castings for the sewer main are on order and are 2-4 weeks out. The water main will be finished up this week. Next Thursday, he hopes it will be fully online. The 5th Street water main project is set to begin on March 30th.

Brinkman stated that Forest Park High School has inquired if the Town would be interested in extending our 6-inch water main from 14th Street down Michigan to the YMCA. This has been a long-term goal in the water department's plan to improve the ISO Fire Ratings. This area of Town is the weak point in our rating. The school has agreed to pay for the labor for the project if the Town

pays for the materials. Debbie moved to allow Ben to work with Forest Park on the project and purchase the materials for the project, estimate totaling \$41,613. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Matt Weyer, Park Board President, stated that the Sons of the American Revolution will be planting trees for the USA's 250th Birthday and an elm tree will be planted on Saturday at the 5th Street Park. There will be a dedication at a future date, and a plaque will be added to the tree. Matt also stated the concession stand building at 5th Street is almost complete. He thanked the Mobel Foundation for its donation to the project and also thanked all the Town departments for their work on the building, especially the electric department.

Debbie Johnson stated the Redevelopment Commission will meet on Thursday.

Debbie stated Peyton is working with the Ferdinand Merchants on America's 250th Birthday Celebrations happening this year.

Ron moved to approve the route for the Color Run on Saturday, April 4th. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Framing Ferdinand board members, Lori Klem and Tiffany Leonard, requested that the Town allow the installation of 20 planter baskets on Town of Ferdinand light poles between 13th Street and 4th Street. The Town would be responsible for installing the planter baskets, and Framing Ferdinand would be responsible for planting, maintaining, and watering the plants in the baskets. Debbie moved to approve the request. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie Johnson stated that the SS4A committee meeting will be on May 6th. HWC and some committee members will be conducting visual audits where the study showed indicated hazardous intersections.

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

Sicard is going to start working on a cybersecurity plan.

Debbie stated that the RDC is working on final agreements for the READI grant. There will be a Public Meeting regarding the establishment of a Residential Housing Program – TIF, on April 8th at 6:00 PM at Town Hall.

Sicard gave an update on property tax reform. He stated that property tax changes have been put off until 2028, and the changes would go into effect in 2029. Sicard will be participating in a webinar in March, hosted by AIM, to gain more information.

Eric Rahman stated the Spring Clean-Up is April 14th, 15th & 16th if needed. There are 6 stickers required per household. Pick up is limited to a reasonable amount.

Ron moved to approve Salary Ordinance 2026-4, an Ordinance amending Ordinance No.

2025-25, Regarding Salaries, Compensation and Wages for Elected Officials, Appointees and Employees, at the meeting it was introduced. The Ordinance allocates 10% of Austin Ryan's salary to the sewer department, not water. After being in his new role for six months, Eric Rahman's wage was increased to \$36.21 per hour effective with the pay period beginning April 3, 2026. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to approve Ordinance 2026-5, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9.06 of the Ferdinand Municipal Code Regarding Traffic Regulations, at the meeting it was introduced. This Ordinance will prohibit parking on the south side of West 6th Street between State Road 162 (Main Street) and Virginia Street. The Street Department will be painting the curb yellow to align with this prohibition. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bohnenkemper reviewed the True Investments, LLC Compliance with Statement of Benefits Real Estate Improvements CF-1. She stated all forms were in substantial compliance with their application and recommended the form 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.

The Town was not awarded a grant for CCMG 2026-01. INDOT recently contacted the Town and the Town was instructed to move forward to get bids based on the original CCMG 2026-01 application, and submit the bid that the Town would like to accept to INDOT for approval. After INDOT approval, as long as funds are still available, the award letter will be issued to the Town. There will be a Special Town Council Meeting to open the bids for CCMG on April 8th at 7:30 PM.

The water rate increase public hearing is set for April 21, 2026, at 7:00 PM. The ordinance will be Ordinance 2026-06. This rate increase is necessary due to Patoka Lake's increase (our water supplier) and rising infrastructure costs. The 2,500-gallon usage customer will see an increase of \$3.00 on their bill. The last water rate increase was in 2022. A hearing notice will be published in the Ferdinand News and will also be mailed to water customers outside of the Town of Ferdinand's jurisdiction.

Debbie moved to pay the special claims of \$500 to Derrick Mears for the Half Way to Folk Fest event, and Ryan Oeding, a Town of Ferdinand employee, who paid for wastewater testing supplies that had to be paid today for \$335.57. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:


Redevelopment Commission	Thursday	March 19, 2026 at 5:00 PM
Redevelopment Commission Public Mtg	Wednesday	April 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Special Town Council Meeting	Wednesday	April 8, 2026 at 7:30 PM
Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	April 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM
BZA	Wednesday	March 25, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Plan Commission	Wednesday	March 25, 2026 at 7:00 PM-Cancelled
Park Board	Wednesday	April 8, 2026 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Commission	Monday	April 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM

A full video archive of the meetings is available for viewing under the Public Notices Tab for 90 days at <https://ferdinandindiana.org>.

As there was no further business to discuss, Ron moved to adjourn. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL


Tamar M Miller
Clerk-Treasurer

Ken Seidel
Dwight Jensen
Ron Wy

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



February 2026 Departmental Report:

The department held a department meeting, where the officers went over all S.O.P.s, General Orders, and Town handbooks and signed off yearly review.

Dubois County department of child services held a training for the Ferdinand Officer's where they update officers on new things going on in their department.

Ferdinand Police officers had their yearly Taser training completed.

I attended the EMA, SILETC, 911 Chief's, and CPT meetings.

Sgt Snider assisted Indiana Law Enforcement Academy with SFTs, which gave FPD training credits.

Sgt Snider attended at no cost Hostage Neogations trainings.

3 Ferdinand officers attended the CIT (crisis intervention training) in Jasper at no cost. The officers attended where Detective Royce Jones, Officer Josh Clouse, Officer Cole Meyer. In the fall we will try to send more officers to this training.

Officer Josh Clouse and Cole Meyer did the Ferdinand Fire Department CPR training.

Officer Josh Clouse attended a free Zoom meeting for ICAC.

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		February 2026 Calls For Service Report 	
	305		
2026 Year to Date	585		
Complaint Type	Total	Complaint Type	Total
Alarm	3	Missing Person Adult/Child	1
Animal Complaint	4	Parking Violation	
Assist Other Agency	11	Property Lost/Found/Recovered	
Battery/ Assault		Protective/Restraining Order	
Burglary (attempted)		Prowler (report of)	
Burning Complaint	1	Report to Station	3
Child Abuse/Neglect		Return Messages	27
Civil Matter /Dispute	1	State Dispatch	6
Citizen Assist	1	Scam	
Debris in Roadway	1	Security Check	37
Disabled/Stranded Vehicle	4	Suicide/or a Suicidal Person	
Disturbance/Disorderly Person	3	Suspicious Person/Vehicle	
Drug Complaint	1	Theft	1
Domestic Problem	3	Traffic Control	10
Escort		Traffic Warnings	90
Eviction		Traffic Tickets	13
Extra Patrol	2	Trespassing	
Fight		Threats/ Intimidation	1
Finger Printing		Vandalism	1
Fire		Vehicle Accident	10
General Information	31	Vehicle Check	2
Gun Permit		UTV	
Harassment		Warrant	
Investigation	4	Welfare Check	6
Identity Theft		911 false calls	4
Illegal Dumping		Pursuit	
Intoxicated Person	2	Year End Totals	
Juvenile Incurrible/Runaway		2022 Calls Year End Totals	2593
Lines/ Poles Down	2	2023 Calls Year End Totals	3054
Lost/ Stolen License Plate		2024 Calls Year End Totals	3736
Mental Subject		2025 Calls Year End Totals	4950
ICAC Investigation		2026 ICAC Investigation Totals	
Public Relations		2026 Detective Case Totals	5



FERDINAND FIRE DEPT.

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

2026 Summary of Incidents

	FIRE	EMR		TOTAL
JANUARY	4	8		12
FEBRUARY	1	12		13
MARCH				
APRIL				
MAY				
JUNE				
JULY				
AUGUST				
SEPTEMBER				
OCTOBER				
NOVEMBER				
DECEMBER				

We have received a donation of \$22,000 to put toward on another Lucas device(mechanical cpr device). It will cover most of the cost but the department is going to cover the other \$ 6,500 to purchase. It will be placed on 408 to serve the community out of station 2.

The Automatic Aid was put fully in place in February.

Our ISO rating stayed at a 5, unchanged from last time.

Electric Department Report

Mar 17, 2025

- No unplanned outage
- Assisting Park Department with light pole and replacement
- 14th street feeder line upgrade
- 2 new services installed



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

Street and Park Department

Swept streets in February

Cut down 6 dead Ash trees in 18th St Park

Ground out 8 tree stumps in the parks and reseeded area.

I have quote for JD 4066R Tractor and Loader, also a FM 4012 Flex Wing Mower, for \$69,794.10 (after trade in value on NH 33D Tractor and Loader). Five departments going in on tractor, loader and mower for a cost of \$13,958.82 each. Hudson JD state contract.

Eric Rahman
Street and Property Manager

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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Water:

MROs filed with IDEM

Monthly Water Treatment	
Total Gallons	6,914,000
Max. Day	591,000
Min. Day	143,000
Avg. Daily	246,929

Leiberling water main project started last Monday March 9th,
- Last valving to be installed Monday March 16th.

Work on 5th St, Start on March 30th

1 water meter changed out for failure,
1- residential meters

Water main break from February 16th totaled 2.1 million gallons when levels and flows turned back to normal.

Forest Park High School is asking for the town to go in on a water main extension on the West side of the school to as part of their school remodel. The main would go from the intersection at 14th Street and Michigan to the North side of the school property where the park, school and YMCA meet.

This will allow us to connect to the water main going to the YMCA from 18th St allowing for better fire fighting flow at the school and the YMCA and Library. This will allow for higher flows at the hydrants at the YMCA and Library as well as provide another fire hydrant for the YMCA and FPHS and provide a hydrant on the Southeast side of the YMCA and one on the Northwest side of the FPHS to allow for better coverage if need be. In our ISO rating done last year fire protection around the school and YMCA where two low scoring areas both in flow and coverage.

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 2.7 mg/l per day average

Phosphorus levels of .5 mg/l out of a limit of 1 mg/l average

MONTHLY REMOVAL SUMMARY					Total Monthly Flow: (million gallons) 5.87
Percent Removal	BOD5	S.S.	Ammonia	Phosphorus	
Primary Treatment	NA	NA			
Secondary Treatment	NA	NA			Percent Capacity
Tertiary Treatment	NA	NA			(actual flow/design) 27%
Overall Treatment	99.1	98.9	99.0	91.4	

Phosphorus limit would be 1 mg/l. (compliance achieved)

Call outs - 3 during high rain events, plant brought in .8 to 2.2 million per day over the last week.

Education:

Water Stakeholders meeting in Washington on February 26th

Notes:

The State is creating water districts for research and communication on water source availability, between raw water (ie; lakes, streams and aquifers) and available water treatment availability. This is also to be able to set up water regulations on usage and run off as well as future industry.

Benjamin J Brinkman

Ben Brinkman

Water/Wastewater Superintendent

KENNETH SICARD, President

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Vice President

RONALD WEYER, Member

TAMARA MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

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Marketing Dept – Peyton Englert
March 2026 – Town Council Meeting

Random website updates.

Working on what can be improved/organized on website to make it easier to navigate. Creating a FAQ section on the website with VIV

250th Celebration – various planning

Framing Ferdinand – helping create social media campaign for 2026

Ferdinand Folk Fest – preparing for Halfway to Folk Fest, Vendor Spotlight Campaign

Created a “What Can I Flush” Flyer with waste water department

Looking for a good system when emergencies/warnings/advisories happen where we can notify more community members a lot quicker.

Various social media posts