

TOWN OF FERDINAND
REGULAR MEETING
August 18, 2026

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, in the Ferdinand Town Hall. Present were Council President, Ken Sicard; Vice-President, Debbie Johnson; Member, Ron Weyer; Attorney, Sharon Bohnenkemper; 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.

Debbie moved to approve the Minutes of the July 21, 2026, Town Council Meeting and July 28, 2026 Special Meeting. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Rob Randle, Police Chief, requested permission to send Officer Dylan Massie to the Indiana Department of Toxicology in Indianapolis for \$400 for 1 day on September 16, 2026. Will need use of the car and 1 meal for that day. This certification will allow him to run the certified machine. Ron moved to approve the request. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Randle thanked Eric Rahman for the sign set up for the Midsummer Eve Stroll event.

John Hoppenjans, Fire Chief, thanked everyone for supporting the Fireman's Ball. Debbie moved to approve Hoppenjans' request to declare the obsolete SCBA units as salvage so they can be disposed of. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Eric Rahman, Street Superintendent, contacted C&R Paving and they plan to do the patching on Northview within the next 60 days. Rahman stated the new four-way stop at East 14th and Alabama and East 14th and Vienna will go into effect August 31, 2026.

Debbie moved to approve Brinkman's request to void the water line easement on the Christ the King Church property (map attached) for the cemetery expansion. Brinkman stated the water line is no longer in service and an alternate water line has been installed. Brinkman stated they would check the unused main to make sure it was disconnected on both ends. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. The Monastery facility manager has requested a change out of their two 8-inch water meters for fire protection. The estimated cost is \$14,200 per Neptune Mach 10 meter and \$2,500 per check valve. The facility manager is going to address the issue with the Monastery board. Sicard stated we will work with them, possibly by providing labor, but would like more information from the

Monastery.

At 6:40 PM, Brinkman explained the bids did have a price change for the grit removal system due to the addition of a five-foot extension, Graves bid increased by \$15,980 for a total of \$500,828, and Kiefer Brothers bid increased by \$13,388, for a total \$543,735. Both bids were complete. After review, Brinkman recommended accepting the lower bid from Graves for \$500,828. Ron moved to approve accepting the Graves bid. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 6:45 PM, Ron moved to close accepting bids for the new fire rescue truck. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. There were two bids:

Deep South Fire Trucks	Seminary, Mississippi	\$174,550.00
Gerry's Automotive	Evansville, Indiana	\$75,151.50

Ken moved to take the bids under advisement. John Hoppenjans, Fire Chief, will review the bids to make sure the specifications have been met and report his recommendation at the Special Town Council Meeting on September 8, 2026, at 5 PM. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Matt Weyer, Park Board President, stated the Board is reviewing the park lease structure for the full park rentals for tourneys, fee structure, rain policy, and post tournament repairs. Park Board members will meet with Bohnenkemper to review the current lease document.

Sicard stated the Redevelopment Commission met this evening, and the IEDC approved the READI 2.0 Grant to the Town of Ferdinand for \$2,054,000.

Ben Huckaba, President of Alpha Engineering, prepared the Electric Rate Study that was provided to the Town Council. The Town's electric rate increase is necessary because the wholesale electric provider contract with NextEra expired and the new wholesale contract rates are higher. For the past 10 years, electric rates with NextEra have been fairly constant, but recent economic conditions, data centers, and the increased demand for energy have contributed to the rate increase. The average residential user will see about a \$30 per month increase. Increases for large power and commercial users will vary based on usage. We are just passing through the costs that we are incurring. The Council competitively bid the contract. There were proposals from three electric power providers and with guidance from Huckaba, NextEra's proposal was chosen by the Council. Ordinance 2026-14, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 10.33 of the Ferdinand Municipal Code Regarding Electric Rates and Charges was introduced. The Ordinance and the notice of the meeting to be held September 8, 2026, at 5:00 PM, will be published in the Ferdinand News. The new rates will be effective September 10, bills mailed October 25, and due November 10.

At 7:00 PM, Debbie moved to open the budget hearing. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Miller stated the Advertised 2027 Budget is \$3,446,910 (2026 was \$2,803,090) with an adopted tax rate of .6792 (2026 adopted rate was .6480), the actual tax rate for 2026 ended up being .5544 per \$100 of assessed value of \$166,106,477 (2026 was \$164,888,044). The Maximum Levy is \$1,142,865 (2026 was \$1,082,988) an increase of about 6%. The 2027 Budget Form 3 was posted on Gateway and is available at www.budgetnotices.in.gov. The 2027 budget adoption meeting will be Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. The proposed Ordinance was given the number Ordinance 2026-15. There being no further discussion. Debbie moved to close the budget hearing. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Lori Klem, representing Framing Ferdinand, requested 9th Street closing west of Main Street and Virginia Steet south toward the Post Office, during Walktober Fest on October 10, 2026, between 8:30 am and 2:00 pm. Chief Randle is in agreement of the designated street closure where vendors would be located. The mural opening ceremony will be at 10 am at Fleig's Café. Debbie moved to approve the requested street closure. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Lori provided an update that the Main Street planters will be installed in the spring, and the light poles will be decorated for Fall.

Police Chief Randle's requested permission to extend a conditional offer of employment to Stephany Gore (Massie), subject to passing the drug screening test. Employment would begin on August 24, 2026. Ron moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-16, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2025-25 Regarding Salaries, Compensation and Wages for Elected Officials, Appointees and Employees of the Town of Ferdinand, at the meeting it was introduced. Full-time Patrolman, Stephany Gore, night shift, \$25.00 per hour and an extra \$1.17 night shift differential; 168 hours per work period. Employment to commence August 24, 2026, subject to favorable drug screening results being obtained. Full-time is 168 hours per work period. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to approve Brinkman's request to advertise for a full-time water/wastewater laborer/lab position. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to release the cashier's check in the amount of \$22,500 related to the Progressive Investment Company Performance Bond for the Scenic Hills Development Second Addition, as the conditions of the bond have been met. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Rahman gave an update on the CCMG 2026-02 project. Vienna Drive has curb and storm sewer installed, and landscaping is done. Milling and paving will follow. Work on Alabama Street

from East 5th to South of Caesars Court has started with curb and storm sewer installation. Knies discovered 88 feet of bad storm sewer with a cost of \$4,635 to repair. Rahman will approve the change order from Knies. The street department is filling in the asphalt from Florida to Michigan on East 5th Street from the water line replacement. November 1, 2026, is the paving deadline.

Brinkman gave an update on the 5th Street water main line replacement.

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

Curt Uebelhor, Rita Uebelhor, and Kathy Lueken were in attendance. Kurt and Rita Uebelhor expressed their concern to the Council regarding a water main break in the easement behind his house. He said the damage was extensive, and the Town did not reimburse him for the damage to his property caused by the water and his home owner insurance did not cover the cost either. He felt he was not treated fairly by the Town or certain employees. He stated he did not receive a credit on his utility bill. Miller responded she had not received any paperwork related to a credit. Brinkman will follow up with the credit request. The Council thanked them for coming and expressing their concerns.

Debbie moved to allow Sicard to sign the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative Grant 2.0 Contractor Agreement as recommended by Tom Pitman, Attorney. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie stated the Town received a grant to apply to the cost of the trail from the 18th Street Park to the Old Town Lake. She is looking into additional grant opportunities through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grants.

Sicard stated the State initiated the Municipal Unit Strategic Taskforce Process "MUST" meetings to determine the allocation of the Local Income Tax distribution. Tammy Miller is the designated representative as the Ferdinand Clerk. Treasurer. The meeting will be mid-September. Sicard is working on an article to educate the public what their property taxes fund.

Debbie stated the health insurance committee is waiting for additional health insurance provider options from our agent.

Rahman stated the Fall Clean Up will be October 13, 14, and 15. Additional information will be provided at the September meeting.

Ron moved to adopt Resolution 2026-07, A Resolution Authorizing Entry into Mutual Aid Agreement, per Fire Chief Hoppenjans. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement, which was last updated in 1989, and allow Sicard and Hoppenjans to sign. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved that we do not renew the I64 eastbound Lamar billboard which expires in

December 2026, due to low visibility due to trees along the interstate. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Debbie will have the J. R. Promotions westbound billboard updated to reflect the 2026 Christkindlmarkt dates. Debbie is looking into billboard options and possible contributions from interest parties.

The Folk Fest will be held Saturday, September 19, 2026.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

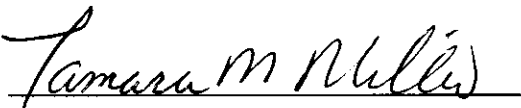
Redevelopment Commission	Tuesday	September 15, 2026 at 5:00 PM
Town Council Special Meeting	Tuesday	September 8, 2026 at 5:00 PM
Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	September 15, 2026 at 6:30 PM
BZA	Wednesday	August 26, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Plan Commission	Wednesday	August 26, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Park Board	Wednesday	September 9, 2026 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Commission	Monday	October 26, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Town Council Budget Adoption	Tuesday	September 15, 2026 at 7 PM

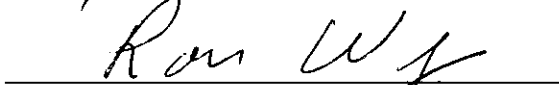
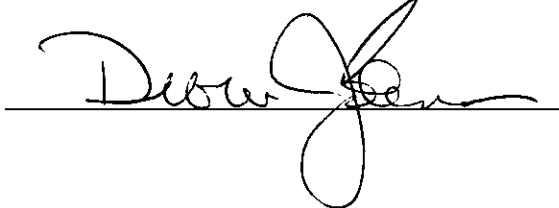
A full video archive of the meetings is available for viewing under the Public Notices Tab for 90 days at <https://ferdinandindiana.org>.

As there was no further business to discuss, Ron moved to adjourn. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL


Clerk-Treasurer

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



July 2026 Departmental Report:

Attended the Midsummer eves stroll event at the Wollenman House. To assist the street department, I got a street department truck and got the Closed Street signs picked up and put in a truck for Eric.

2024 Dodge Ram police truck has been stripped, and some equipment has come in Like Radio, printer. Still waiting for the rest to come in and be installed, but we are closer.

INDOT has reached out to Ken and me to have meeting with them in August concerning State Road 162 and State Road 264 intersection

I am seeking permission to send Officer Dylan Massie to the Indiana Department of Toxicology for \$400.00 in Indianapolis for 1 day on Sept 16, 2026. Will need use of the car and 1 meal for that day. This certification will allow him to run the certified machine.

I am seeking permission to make a conditional offer to Stephany Gore for the current open position, pending a drug screening.

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	483	July 2026 Calls For Service Report 	
2026 Year to Date	2098		
Complaint Type	Total	Complaint Type	Total
Alarm	5	Missing Person Adult/Child	3
Animal Complaint	2	Parking Violation	3
Assist Other Agency	19	Property Lost/Found/Recovered	4
Battery/ Assault		Protective/Restraining Order	
Burglary (attempted)		Prowler (report of)	
Burning Complaint		Report to Station	2
Child Abuse/Neglect	1	Return Messages	30
Civil Matter /Dispute	5	State Dispatch	28
Citizen Assist	10	Scam	
Debris in Roadway	3	Security Check	57
Disabled/Stranded Vehicle	7	Suicide/or a Suicidal Person	
Disturbance/Disorderly Person	1	Suspicious Person/Vehicle	4
Drug Complaint		Theft	1
Domestic Problem	6	Traffic Control	5
Escort	3	Traffic Warnings	139
Eviction		Traffic Tickets	20
Extra Patrol	1	Trespassing	2
Fight		Threats/ Intimidation	2
Finger Printing		Vandalism	
Fire	1	Vehicle Accident	14
General Information	33	Vehicle Check	
Gun Permit		UTV	
Harassment	1	Warrant	
Investigation	6	Welfare Check	3
Identity Theft		911 false calls	22
Illegal Dumping		Pursuit	
Intoxicated Person		Year End Totals	
Juvenile Incurrigible/Runaway	1	2022 Calls Year End Totals	2593
Lines/ Poles Down		2023 Calls Year End Totals	3054
Lost/ Stolen License Plate	2	2024 Calls Year End Totals	3736
Mental Subject		2025 Calls Year End Totals	4950
ICAC Investigation		2026 ICAC Investigation Totals	
Public Relations	1	2026 Detective Case Totals	6



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	6	8		14
APRIL	3	16		19
MAY	2	13		15
JUNE	4	16		20
JULY	4	9		13
AUGUST				
SEPTEMBER				
OCTOBER				
NOVEMBER				
DECEMBER				

We would like to thank the community for their support in coming out to the Firemens Ball.

Would like to permission to move all of our old SCBA packs and mask to excess inventory.

Mutual Aid agreement

Electric Department Report

Aug. 18, 2025

- Multiple unplanned outages
 - Storms over a couple weeks
- Pole replacements
 - west side of main street
- New service installations and prep
 - High school
 - Underground loop to 14th street from 18th part of reliability improvement plan
- Voltage conversion
 - Conductor upgrade prep in Missouri st area



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

Doing Rip Rap projects

Refreshing stop bars with paint

Doing blacktop patching

Mowing and weed eating when needed to keep up

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
FERDINAND, IN 47532-0007
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Water:

MROs filed with IDEM

Monthly Water Treatment	
Total Gallons	6,902,000
Max. Day	349,000
Min. Day	70,000
Avg. Daily	222,645

Water usage at 6-year low for the month of July
2.5 million gallons less for the year for the 5-year average at this time.

5th Street Project

- Install of valves at 5th and Michigan
- Asphalt base filled in as well of current trench

FPHS/YMCA Project

- Main installed and connected from 18th to 14th
- Bac-t samples
- Dirt work finished, seeded and strawed

2025 Water Audit Certified and sent in

Water meters

4 failed during regular read time
3 new installs

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) 7.603
Percent Removal	BOD5	S.S.	Ammonia	Phosphorus	Percent Capacity (actual flow/design) 35%
Primary Treatment	NA	NA			
Secondary Treatment	NA	NA			
Tertiary Treatment	NA	NA			
Overall Treatment	NA	NA	99.7	82.1	
Phosphorus limit would be 75 % removal. (compliance achieved)					

Other:

Permission to advertise to hire a team member.

Benjamin J Brinkman

Ben Brinkman

Water/Wastewater Superintendent

KENNETH SICARD, President

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Vice President

RONALD WEYER, Member

TAMARA MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney



Town of Ferdinand
2065 Main Street
PO Box 7
Ferdinand, IN 47532-0007
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twnofferdinand@psci.net

Marketing Dept – Peyton Englert
August 2026– Town Council Meeting

Social Media Posts

Random website updates

Working with JR Promotions on new contract for current and potential new billboard.

Ferdinand Folk Fest – various social media posts for upcoming fest

New banner ideas for Main Street light poles. We are going to work with Framing Ferdinand for ideas.

