

TOWN OF FERDINAND

SPECIAL MEETING

September 8, 2026

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Special Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 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.

At 5:00 PM, the Town held the electric rate hearing. Ben Huckaba, President of Alpha Engineering, prepared the Electric Rate Study that was provided to the Town Council. Huckaba stated that the Town's electric rate increase is necessary because the previous wholesale electric provider contract with NextEra expired, and the wholesale rates in the new contract are higher. For the past 10 years, NextEra's electric rates have been fairly consistent, but recent economic conditions, data centers, and the increased energy demand have contributed to the rate increase. The average residential user will see approximately \$30 per month increase. Increases for large power and commercial users will vary based on usage. The ordinance is 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. We believe the rates are still competitive with Indiana rates. There were no questions. Debbie moved to close the utility hearing. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-14, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 10.33 of the Ferdinand Municipal Code Regarding Electric Rates and Charges. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. The new rates are effective September 10, bills mailed October 25, and due November 10.

Ron moved to allow Sicard to sign the CCMG 2027-1 financial commitment letter for up to \$150,000. The application is in process, but a firm contribution amount is not yet available. The application is due September 30, 2026. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to adopt Resolution 2026-08, a Resolution authorizing Ken Sicard, Town Council President, to sign the INDOT LPA Contracts and CCMG agreements. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

John Hoppenjans, Fire Chief, gave his recommendation for the purchase of a new fire rescue truck. Bids were opened at the August 18, 2026 Town Council meeting and were taken under advisement.

There were two bids:

Total Built Package

Deep South Fire Apparatus	Seminary, Mississippi	\$174,550.00
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Ruxer (Ford F550 chassis only)	<u>\$75,151.50</u>	\$249,701.50
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With 180 days after receipt of chassis performance time.

Gerry's Automotive	Evansville, Indiana	\$321,500.00
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Ruxer (Ford F550 chassis only)	<u>\$75,151.50</u>	\$396,651.50
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With 270-365 days after receipt of chassis performance time.

Fire Chief Hoppenjans, after reviewing the terms of each bid, recommended accepting Deep South Fire Apparatus with a chassis from Ruxer, for a total \$249,701.50. Ron moved to approve the Fire Chief's recommendation. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Hoppenjans requested a “Drug Take Back Day”, be held on October 24, 2026 at Fire Station No. 1, located at 221 East 4th Street, as part of a countywide effort. Debbie moved to approve use of Station No. 1, as requested. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie stated the health insurance committee is recommending SIHO One Care through Chamber Care with an option for a PPO or an HSA plan. The HSA premium increase was 1.8% and was absorbed by the Town. The PPO increase was 12.8%, 5% was absorbed by the Town. Because the HSA premium is lower than the PPO premium, employees choosing the HSA option would receive \$200 in their HSA savings account. If an employee waives coverage, they would also receive \$200 in gross wages. Employees who waive coverage, due to health insurance coverage obtained elsewhere, would receive \$100 a month in gross wages. The plan offers a Deaconess clinic in Jasper and WellBridge surgical facility in Noblesville that offers low-cost or no-cost surgery options. Ken moved to approve the committee's recommendation. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bohnenkemper stated that today, 9-8-26, is 988 Day. We are advising that anyone experiencing a mental health or suicide crisis can call or text 988 and reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, 24 hours a day. She asked Council to approve the Town of Ferdinand Proclamation proclaiming the month of September in Ferdinand as National Suicide Prevention Month. Debbie moved to approve the signing of the Proclamation by the Town of Ferdinand. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-17, and Ordinance Rescinding Ordinance 96-3 on Confined Air Space Program. The Town Council of the Town of Ferdinand finds that it is in the best interest of the Town of Ferdinand that Ordinance 96-3 be rescinded and that the procedural requirements would be best kept internally so as to facilitate changes and not be in the municipal code. That Ordinance 96-3 be, and it hereby is, rescinded. All of Chapter 3.20 should be removed/deleted from the Ferdinand Municipal Code. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Todd Fischer, Electric Superintendent, expressed his appreciation for the health insurance committee and for allowing the employees to be part of the selection process for health insurance.

Debbie moved to approve the request of Todd Fischer, Electric Superintendent, to purchase a Beckwith capacitor control for \$20,655 from Brownstown Electric Supply. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to approve Fischer's request to send two employees to the free capacitor control class on October 8 at Brownstown, meals are included, and transportation is needed. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

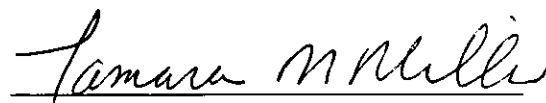
Ron moved to approve Fischer's request to send two employees to the IMEA Business Conference on October 14-15 at Florence, IN, two hotel rooms for one night, transportation, and meals. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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 5:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL



Clerk-Treasurer



