

TOWN OF FERDINAND  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 15, 2026

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, in the Ferdinand Town Hall. Present were Council President, Ken Sicard; Vice-President, Debbie Johnson; Member, Ron Weyer; and Clerk-Treasurer, Tamara Miller. Also in attendance were Tim Etter, Jenny Etter, Jayne Hilgeman, Kristy Hilgeman Lane, Tim Bender, Betsy Corley, Greg Rickelman, Don Farina and Cynthia Braun.

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 August 18, 2026, Town Council Meeting. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Rob Randle, Police Chief, requested permission to send Officer Stephany Massie to the Indiana Department of Toxicology in Indianapolis for \$400 for 1 day on October 7, 2026. Will need use of the car and 1 meal for that day. This certification will allow her to run the certified machine. Ron moved to approve the request. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. He complimented Eric Rahman and the street department for installing the stop signs on East Alabama and Vienna at 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The school traffic is flowing much better.

Chief Randle requested approval of the 2026 Monster Dash 5K route, provided by Mike Steffe, to be held on October 31, 2026 at 10 AM. The new route will not use the Old Town Lake Trail. Debbie moved to approve the new 5K route as presented. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Eric Rahman, Street Superintendent, reported the ADA sidewalk project has its last pour tomorrow. Rahman stated the slide at the 5<sup>th</sup> street park playground is off limits and it needs to be replaced.

Ben Brinkman, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, stated the amount of water treated is down significantly due to the ongoing replacement of lateral service lines reducing the water (I&I) infiltration and inflow. He is purchasing a PH probe for testing for \$1,700. He also gave a 5<sup>th</sup> Street

water line replacement update. Sicard requested a timeline for the sewer plant grit removal system project.

Sicard stated the Redevelopment Commission did not meet this month.

Kathy Tretter, representing Ferdinand Tourism, requested closing Maryland Street, from 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Street, during October Fest, music and food at the gazebo, on October 10, 2026, between 3 pm and 11 pm. Chief Randle is in agreement of the designated street closure. Ron moved to approve the request. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Don Farina asked about the letter from the water department regarding lead in the water. Brinkman explained a lead and copper sample came back high because the sample was taken from a vacant home. When water sits stagnant in copper pipes where lead solder is present, the sample will show a high lead concentration. The Town's water lines do not have lead. Brinkman will address "lead in the water" later in the meeting.

Rahman gave an update on the CCMG 2026-02 project. Knies is finishing up the Alabama Street curb prep and storm sewer placement and work is being done on East 5<sup>th</sup>. Knies has been really good to work with. East 6<sup>th</sup> Street is a good street to use while work is being done on 5<sup>th</sup>. Paving will be done at the same time for Vienna, 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Alabama.

Miller stated she and Rahman will be submitting the CCMG 2027-01 application after a final review and before the September 30 deadline. The summary was provided to the Council; the 20% Town match would be \$132,279.37.

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

Cyber Security Update – nothing to report.

RDC/READI Grant –Documents are being prepared. Nothing more to report.

Trail Grant Update – nothing to report.

Sicard stated that there is a State required Municipal Unit Strategic Taskforce Process "MUST" meeting tomorrow at 4:30 pm at the Jasper City Hall, to determine the allocation of the Local Income Tax distribution due to the reduction of future property taxes.

Debbie stated the employees have chosen their health insurance plan and we are finalizing the paperwork. This was covered at the Special Town Council meeting on September 8, 2026.

Rahman stated the Fall Clean Up will be October 13<sup>th</sup> on the west side, 14<sup>th</sup> on the east side, and 15<sup>th</sup> if needed. We will not be picking up TVs. Six stickers are needed for a pick-up of a

reasonable amount. The solid waste district accepts TVs. The Fall Clean Up flyer is posted on the website.

Miller stated that our current software, Keystone, sold to A.E. Boyce who later became BS&A, will be phasing out over the next several years. My staff and I explored three options: BS&A, Edmonds and FREY. The FREY product is similar to Keystone and is in the same price range. A comparison of pricing was provided to the Council. In order to secure a place in line for implementation in 2027, Miller requested the Council's approval to sign the Frey agreement. Implementation Year Cost of \$31,908.42, Year 2 - \$18,712.72 with an annual increase of 2% through Year 5. Debbie moved to approve the request. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Billboards – was addressed at the September 8, 2026 Special Meeting.

Ron moved to approve Halloween Trick or Treating hours from 5 PM – 7:30 PM EST on Saturday, October 31, 2026. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to approve the Town to pay \$584.50 for ½ of the tent rental cost for the Folk Fest. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 7:00 PM, Ron moved to open the budget hearing. Debbie 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](http://www.budgetnotices.in.gov). The 2027 budget hearing was held Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-15, an Ordinance for Appropriation and Tax Rates. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. There being no further discussion. Ron moved to close the budget hearing. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ordinance concerning tampering with water meters – moved to next Council meeting.

Ben Brinkman, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, presented Lead Education at this public meeting as required by IDEM: What You Should Do to Protect Your Health

- Flush Your Faucets: If a faucet has gone unused for more than 6 hours, do not drink or cook with the first draw of water. Run your cold water tap for 1 to 2 minutes (or until it feels noticeably colder to the touch) before using it.

- **Use Cold Water Only:** Always use cold tap water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula. Hot water dissolves lead from plumbing joints much faster than cold water. Boiling water does not remove lead.
- **Clean Your Aerators:** Unscrew and clean the small mesh screens (aerators) on your faucets regularly. Debris and tiny particles of lead solder can trap themselves there.
- **Consider a Filter:** If you have pregnant individuals or young children in your home, consider using a water pitcher or tap filter certified under NSF/ANSI Standard 53 specifically for lead removal.
- **Lead is in solder and brass fixtures in homes built before 1986 and has the highest potential in homes from 1983 to 1986.**

Sicard stated that if you are here to talk about 835 Main Street, at the current time, he and the president of the Board of Zoning, and the president of the Planning Commission have met and are in the process reviewing many documents, records and recordings going back three years. When their review is complete, their findings will be made at a public meeting. Timothy Etter requested permission to ask one question. Sicard agreed. Etter asked if construction would continue at 835 Main Street while the review was being conducted. Sicard answered, yes work will continue according to his legal consultant. Betsy Corley, Kristy Hilgeman and Tim Bender spoke and expressed concern over available parking spaces for 835 Main Street. Don Farina stated that the investigation is being done and that is a good goal. Let them do their investigation. Indiana is a right to work state; you cannot just shut someone down.

Ron moved to pay regular claims. 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>.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

|                                 |           |                                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Redevelopment Commission        | Tuesday   | November 17, 2026 at 5:00 PM          |
| Town Council Meeting            | Tuesday   | November 17, 2026 at 6:30 PM          |
| BZA                             | Wednesday | October 28, 2026 at 6:30 PM Cancelled |
| Plan Commission                 | Wednesday | October 28, 2026 at 7:00 PM           |
| Park Board                      | Wednesday | November 4, 2026 at 4:30 PM           |
| Economic Development Commission | Monday    | October 26, 2026 at 6:00 PM           |

As there was no further business to discuss, Debbie moved to adjourn. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

ATTEST:

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL

Tamara M Miller

Clerk-Treasurer

Ken Seind

Debbie Jensen

Ron Wy

**Ferdinand** Est. 1905

**Police Department**

243 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street Ferdinand, Indiana 47532

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

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



August 2026 Departmental Report:

The new 4 way stop sign at East 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Alabama/Vienna is up and working very well, I have watched it several times during school traffic.

I attended the drone lecture at the EMA room, which was very interesting. I was told a group of business owners had contacted Huntingburg Chief and was wanting to do what Evansville P.D. is doing. At this time that is all the information I have, I will keep council informed.

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.

I am seeking permission to send Officer Stephany Massie to the Indiana Department of Toxicology for \$400.00 in Indianapolis for 1 day on Oct 7th, 2026. Will need use of the car and 1 meal for that day. This certification will allow her to run the certified machine.

# 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

|                                |              |                                                                                                                                                                                      |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Total Calls For Service</b> | <b>449</b>   | <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>August 2026</b><br/> <b>Calls For Service Report</b>  </div> |              |
|                                |              |                                                                                                                                                                                      |              |
| 2026 Year to Date              | <b>2547</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                      |              |
|                                |              |                                                                                                                                                                                      |              |
| <b>Complaint Type</b>          | <b>Total</b> | <b>Complaint Type</b>                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Total</b> |
| Alarm                          | 3            | Missing Person Adult/Child                                                                                                                                                           | 1            |
| Animal Complaint               | 3            | Parking Violation                                                                                                                                                                    | 4            |
| Assist Other Agency            | 9            | Property Lost/Found/Recovered                                                                                                                                                        | 3            |
| Battery/ Assault               |              | Protective/Restraining Order                                                                                                                                                         | 1            |
| Burglary (attempted)           |              | Prowler (report of)                                                                                                                                                                  |              |
| Burning Complaint              |              | Citizen on Station                                                                                                                                                                   | 7            |
| Child Abuse/Neglect            | 1            | Return Messages                                                                                                                                                                      | 20           |
| Civil Matter /Dispute          | 6            | State Dispatch                                                                                                                                                                       | 14           |
| Citizen Assist                 |              | Scam                                                                                                                                                                                 | 1            |
| Debris in Roadway              |              | Security Check                                                                                                                                                                       | 89           |
| Disabled/Stranded Vehicle      | 2            | Suicide/or a Suicidal Person                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Disturbance/Disorderly Person  |              | Suspicious Person/Vehicle                                                                                                                                                            | 4            |
| Drug Complaint                 |              | Theft                                                                                                                                                                                | 2            |
| Domestic Problem               | 3            | Traffic Control                                                                                                                                                                      | 8            |
| Escort                         | 6            | Traffic Warnings                                                                                                                                                                     | 100          |
| Eviction                       |              | Traffic Tickets                                                                                                                                                                      | 8            |
| Extra Patrol                   | 2            | Trespassing                                                                                                                                                                          |              |
| Fight                          | 1            | Threats/ Intimidation                                                                                                                                                                | 2            |
| Finger Printing                |              | Vandalism                                                                                                                                                                            | 3            |
| Fire                           | 3            | Vehicle Accident                                                                                                                                                                     | 11           |
| General Information            | 31           | Vehicle Check                                                                                                                                                                        | 5            |
| Gun Permit                     |              | UTV                                                                                                                                                                                  |              |
| Harassment                     |              | Warrant                                                                                                                                                                              |              |
| Investigation                  | 3            | Welfare Check                                                                                                                                                                        | 12           |
| Identity Theft                 |              | 911 false calls                                                                                                                                                                      | 13           |
| Illegal Burning                | 1            | Pursuit                                                                                                                                                                              | 1            |
| Intoxicated Person             |              | <b>Year End Totals</b>                                                                                                                                                               |              |
| Juvenile Incurrible/Runaway    | 1            | 2022 Calls Year End Totals                                                                                                                                                           | <b>2593</b>  |
| Lines/ Poles Down              |              | 2023 Calls Year End Totals                                                                                                                                                           | <b>3054</b>  |
| Lost/ Stolen License Plate     |              | 2024 Calls Year End Totals                                                                                                                                                           | <b>3736</b>  |
| Mental Subject                 |              | 2025 Calls Year End Totals                                                                                                                                                           | <b>4950</b>  |
| ICAC Investigation             |              | 2026 ICAC Investigation Totals                                                                                                                                                       |              |
| Public Relations               |              | 2026 Detective Case Totals                                                                                                                                                           | <b>12</b>    |



## 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    | 3    | 6   |  | 9     |
| SEPTEMBER |      |     |  |       |
| OCTOBER   |      |     |  |       |
| NOVEMBER  |      |     |  |       |
| DECEMBER  |      |     |  |       |

## **Electric Department Report**

September 15, 2026

- No unplanned outages
- Pole replacements
  - west side of main street
- Voltage conversion
  - Conductor upgrade prep in Virginia St area
- Underground Reliability Loop near High School
  - Cable and duct installed
  - Junctions to be completed



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## Street and Park Department

4-way stop at E 14th & Vienna is up and running with stop bars.

Me and Sharon had meetings for easements on E 5th St.

Spraying rip rap areas where needed.

Mowing in parks when needed.

Getting 3 ADA projects ready for concrete work to begin soon.

Certified for ERC for ADA (Ethereum Request for Comments) a proposal developers write.

Eric Rahman  
Street and Property Manager

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

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member  
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member



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## Water:

MROs filed with IDEM

| Monthly Water Treatment |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Total Gallons           | <b>6,806,000</b> |
| Max. Day                | 311,000          |
| Min. Day                | 91,000           |
| Avg. Daily              | 219,548          |

Water usage at 6-year low for the month of August  
4.9 million gallons less for the year than the 5-year average at this time.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Street Project

- Moved into 200 block between Carolina and Maryland
- Asphalt base filled in as well of current trench

### Leaks

- 1 leak best drive service line break
- 1 residential side leak, meter moved out during contractor work
- 2 service saddle leaks on the 700 block of east 21<sup>st</sup> st

### Water meters

- 8 failed during regular read time
- 4 meters moved outside
- 1 new meter

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 2.1 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<br>(million gallons): 6.291 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------|------|---------|------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Percent Removal                                        | BOD5 | S.S. | Ammonia | Phosphorus |                                                |
| Primary Treatment                                      | NA   | NA   |         |            | Percent Capacity                               |
| Secondary Treatment                                    | NA   | NA   |         |            | Actual Discharge: 29%                          |
| Tertiary Treatment                                     | NA   | NA   |         |            |                                                |
| Overall Treatment                                      | NA   | 98.9 | 99.9    | 84.7       |                                                |
| Phosphorus limit would be 1 mg/l (compliance achieved) |      |      |         |            |                                                |

*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



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**Marketing Dept – Peyton Englert**  
**September 2026– Town Council Meeting**

*Social Media Posts*

*Random website updates*

*Working with JR Promotions on new billboard for Christkindlmarkt. I designed the billboard, now just waiting on them to send me next steps.*

*Ferdinand Folk Fest – created and executing social media campaign for 2026 fest. Also attended various Folk Fest meetings*



## **PARKS DEPARTMENT TOWN COUNCIL REPORT**

*September 2026*

### **General Park Report**

- The park board met on September 9, 2026.
- The park board is currently working on making some needed repairs to portions of the 5<sup>th</sup> street playground. Parts are being procured; however, until those are installed, a portion of the playground has been cordoned off with yellow marking ribbon due to safety concerns.
- The board discussed several remaining projects that are in the budget for the year and will be finalizing those year-end projects at October's meeting.
- There is ongoing discussion regarding the lease schedule for 2027.
- The board discussed the need to look into some of the picnic tables in some of the parks that are aging and in need of repair or replacement.
- The next board meeting will be Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Matthew Weyer  
September 15, 2026