

TOWN OF FERDINAND
SPECIAL MEETING
December 20, 2023

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Special Meeting at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, 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.

Also in attendance were Noah Muller, Miles Welp and Malachi Nicolas Kennedy-Werne.

Ben Brinkman, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, distributed Water Tank Assessment Reports from Maguire Iron, Inc. showing the current condition and recommended interior and exterior repairs for the standpipe water tank at Chapel Hill Dr. and the multileg water tank at Industrial Park Road. Brinkman explained the assessments and the Council will review the assessments and maintenance plans to determine the next steps needed.

Ken moved to approve the proposal from Midwest Engineers, Inc. for a Wastewater System SRF Preliminary Engineering Report for \$45,000 and an Asset Management Plan billed hourly not to exceed \$10,000 and allow Brinkman to sign off on the agreement. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Brinkman reported that on October 18, 2024, Steve Lechner received the James E. Burch Steward of the Environment Award from the Indiana Alliance of Rural Water at the Alliance's 2023 Fall Conference in Fort Wayne. As the Plant Operator, Steve has helped develop and maintain the plant for 32 years since its inception in 1999. Steve kept the plant in full compliance while the new superintendent, Brinkman, got up to speed and has mentored many new employees. On December 6, 2023 at French Lick, Lechner received the Indiana AWWA, Small Wastewater Operator of the Year Award. Steve's leadership has been instrumental in the water/wastewater department. The Council expressed their sincere gratitude for Steve's dedication to the Town.

Kim Fischer, Marketing Director, presented materials, including the cost breakdown for website company options from VIV, Axiom, Red Pixel and Munibit for the Council's consideration. The Town currently uses WIX website builder. The Council will review the options presented.

Chief Blessinger stated due to the work of Captain Randle, we received a State of Indiana JAG grant which will be providing us with \$16,010.90 for seven body cameras. Blessinger received 3 quotes and the lowest was from Axon for \$20,042.90. She requested the Town to approve the payment of \$4,032 to meet the total cost. The Grant funds will be coming in January or February, 2024. The contract is for five years. Ron moved to approve the payment of \$4, 032 and allow the

designated person to sign the contract. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-26, An Ordinance Establishing Salaries, Compensation and Wages for Elected Officials, Appointees and Employees of the Town of Ferdinand at the meeting it was introduced. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie stated that Brett Schipp with Universal Design will attend the January 16, 2024 Town Council meeting to present the Main Street sidewalk project preliminary engineering report.

Ron moved to adopt Resolution 2023-08, A Resolution Amending the ARPA Plan Adopted by Ordinance 2022-17. The resolution adds 3 items: Police Body Cams \$4,000 estimate, 5th Street Park \$30,000 estimate, and Senior Center \$15,000 maximum. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to approve the JR Promotion Billboard contract for an annual cost of \$5,440 and an additional \$700 per changeout (up to 3), for the Westbound billboard. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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

Brinkman requested permission to solicit bids for the New Envirosight RX Outpost Camera System at a February 2024 Town Council meeting. Debbie moved to approve. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.


ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	January 16, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Special Town Council Meeting	Monday	February 5, 2024 at 6:30 PM
BZA	Wednesday	January 24, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Plan Commission	Wednesday	January 24, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Park Board	Wednesday	January 10, 2024 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Comm.	Monday	January 22, 2024 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 8:32 PM.

ATTEST:

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL



Clerk-Treasurer

