

TOWN OF FERDINAND
REGULAR MEETING
August 15, 2023

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 in the Ferdinand Town Hall. Present were Vice-President, Debbie Johnson; Council Member, Ron Weyer; Attorney, Sharon Bohnenkemper and Clerk-Treasurer, Tamara Miller.

Also in attendance were Ruby Schepers, Jamie LeClere, Ed Cole, Janet Schnell and Jonathan Hulsman.

Ron moved to approve the Minutes of the July 18, 2023 and the July 25, 2023 Council Meetings. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Department reports (attached) were distributed to the Council prior to the meeting.

Kerri Blessinger, Police Chief, stated Vienna Drive will be closed for the culvert replacement near 22nd Street and Vienna Drive starting on August 18 through the end of September. She reminded drivers to use caution and keep their speed in mind. There are alternative routes to use.

James stated the roof construction on the 202 E. 3rd Street Professional Building is underway.

Ben Brinkman, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, stated they repaired a water leak at 532 East 20th Street. Brinkman requested to employ Midwestern Engineers, Inc. to aid in the preparation of the permit renewal application for the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Permit to IDEM at an estimated fee of \$2,500. Ron moved to approve the request. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Ron moved to approve the purchase of water pipe and supplies needed for the Vienna Drive water main project for approximately \$33,000. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0. IDEM (Indiana Department of Environmental Management) has mandated via EPA, that all Indiana Water Departments conduct a survey of each homeowner's water pipeline leading into their homes. Brinkman stated that mandatory service line surveys will be sent out over the next couple of weeks to water customers. The utility must complete documentation of the findings by October 2024. The survey will help determine which water lines must be replaced.

Janet Schnell, President of the Survivors of Suicide of Dubois County, was presented with the Town of Ferdinand Proclamation proclaiming the month of September in Ferdinand as National Suicide Prevention Month. Schnell explained the suicide rate has declined in Dubois County as a result of awareness and prevention training in the County. Suicide Awareness Voices of Education

(SAVE) seeks to prevent suicide through education, training, and peer support programs and serve as a resource to those touched by suicide. Schnell thanked the Council for their participation by increasing community awareness. Ron moved to approve the signing of the Proclamation by the Town of Ferdinand. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Ed Cole with Dubois Strong gave an update on the community actions. The informational materials he distributed are attached.

Agenda item - Possible use of Non-Restricted Opioid Fund was on the agenda in error.

The close-out documentation for CCMG 2022-01 has been submitted. We are waiting for the close-out letter from INDOT for CCMG 2022-01.

CCMG 2022-02 Culvert Project is underway and will continue through September.

CCMG 2023-01 Project was awarded to Calcar and work will begin in 2024.

Miller requested the Council ratify a higher commitment from the Town for the CCMG 2023-02. The original approved commitment was \$150,000, the revised commitment is \$158,822.03, an increase of \$8,822.03. Ron moved to approve the increase to the Town's Community Crossing Matching Grant commitment for the 2023-02 applications. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Miller reported the wastewater department received an IFA Apprenticeship Salary Reimbursement Grant for up to \$68,964 for Kyle Lechner, an apprentice in the wastewater operator program through the Alliance of Indiana Water. The grant also includes \$700 for a computer and \$7,000 in training reimbursement. Miller thanked Kelly Gardener with the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water for her assistance in obtaining this grant. The Town also received \$20,000 from Grow Southwest Next Level Grants in 2023 and \$20,000 in 2022.

The Valley One Apartments agenda item was postponed until the September meeting.

The property owner of 1305 Main Street is working to clean up the property.

At 7:00 PM the Budget Hearing was held. Miller stated the Advertised 2024 Budget is \$2,423,164 (2022 was \$2,297,790) with an adopted tax rate of .7205 (2023 adopted rate was .7527) per \$100 of assessed value of \$142,443,065 (2022 was \$124,606,109). The Maximum Levy is \$1,038,997 (2023 was \$948,881) an increase of 9.5%. The 2024 Budget Form 3 was posted on Gateway and is available at www.budgetnotices.in.gov. The 2024 budget adoption meeting will be Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. There being no further discussion. Ron moved to close the budget hearing. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

At 7:15 PM Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2023-13, was introduced. Miller requested the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year:

ARPA	Capital Outlays	\$99,703
Economic Dev Income Tax (LIT-ED)	Capital Outlays	\$46,200
Cumulative Capital Development	Capital Outlays	\$21,300
Casino Riverboat	Capital Outlays	\$110,000

The adoption date was set for the September 21, 2023 Council Meeting at 7:15 PM.

There was no additional information regarding the Local Safety Tax Initiative.

Miller distributed the accounts receivable report to the Council. The balance outstanding is higher than the previous month. The utility bills were higher this month due to the higher temperatures.

There was no additional information regarding CISM - Critical Incident Stress Management.

Ron moved to approve Debbie's request to accept Universal Design's proposal for the Total Preliminary Design Phase Fee of \$25,000 for potential sidewalks on SR162/Main Street. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

There is no additional information regarding Addition to Road Inventory 18th Street & Mississippi Street or the Curb and Gutter Project Update (Georgia Street).

Chief Blessinger reported the police have increased patrolling near the 3rd and Michigan Street. She stated she has not received any information from the concerned residents as promised at a previous Council Meeting. Jonathon Hulsman was in attendance and expressed concern for speeding in the area and parking near intersections. After listening to Hulsman and Chief Blessinger, the Council decided not to install a stop sign at this time at the intersection of 3rd and Michigan Streets. Blessinger asked that any concerns be reported to her directly or by calling the non-emergency dispatch number.

Debbie stated that the health insurance committee received proposals from Shepherd Insurance and German American Bank. The best rates were provided by GAB renewing with Anthem. Ron moved to allow the Town to renew the current health insurance with Anthem effective October 1, 2023. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Based on the Ferdinand Town Council's recommendation to the Dubois County Election Board, on July 18, 2023, the D.C. Election Board passed Resolution 2023-9, no municipal election will be held in Ferdinand on November 7, 2023 as there was no contest for any office up for election

in Ferdinand this year.

Ron moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-14, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No 2022-47 Regarding Salaries, Compensation and Wages for Elected Officials, Appointees and Employees of the Town of Ferdinand effective August 29, 2023, at the meeting it was introduced. The ordinance approves the pay for Stephanie Brinkman, part time deputy clerk, at a rate of \$22.00 per hour for 24 hours per week when training; 40 hours per week when covering leave; and then back to 24 hours per week when the other employee returns. Paid holidays will be prorated when she is working 24 hours per week. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Ron moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-15, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No 2022-47 Regarding Salaries, Compensation and Wages for Elected Officials, Appointees and Employees of the Town of Ferdinand effective September 25, 2023, at the meeting it was introduced. The ordinance approves the pay for Kim VanWinkle Fischer, Marketing and Promotions Coordinator, at a rate of \$20.00 per hour for up to 20 hours per week, subject to passing the drug screening. Paid holidays will be prorated. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

At 7:30 PM Robert Reynolds, with LWG, who prepared the electric rate study joined the meeting by telephone for the introduction of the Electric Rate Ordinance. He explained the rationale for the rate increase:

- The last rate increase was in 2019.
- Utility decreased rates by 1.4% in 2022 due to the reduction in URT.
- Since 2019, inflation and increased costs have reduced margins
 - Without an increase a reduction in reserves may occur
- Help increase cash reserves in improvement fund
 - In 2019 the substation project was started and cost around \$1.7 million. Most of the project was funded from cash reserves held in the improvement fund.
 - This rate increase will help restore lost funding and pay for future improvements needed to the system
- After the proposed increase, the rates will still be one of the lowest in the area
- The proposed electric rate increase will be reflected on the utility invoice dated October 25, 2023 due November 10, 2023

Ron moved to close the public hearing. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Ron moved to adopt The Electric Rate Ordinance 2023-10, An Ordinance amending Chapter 10.33 of the Ferdinand Municipal Code Regarding Electric Rates and Charges. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Ron moved to adopt Resolution 2023-06, A Resolution Amending the ARPA Plan Adopted by Ordinance 2022-17. The resolution added \$25,000 for the Senior Citizens Center roof.

Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

The IMEA (Indiana Municipal Electric Association) Convention will be in Bloomington on October 3, 4 and 5, 2023. The Town is a host and will have a table at the door to display tourism pamphlets and we will be putting together a gift basket containing local merchant items to give away. Fischer explained the IMEA provides training, safety meetings and mutual aid for the electric department.

Debbie stated the right-of-way in front of Casey's is the State's responsibility to maintain. Debbie instructed concerned citizens to contact INDOT. Bohnenkemper, on behalf of the Town, has contacted INDOT five times to request the ROW be mowed.

Bohnenkemper requested a hearing date be set for a Petition to Vacate a Public Street on September 21, 2023 at 7:30 PM. Ordinance 2023-16 was assigned to the Ordinance to Vacate Public Street (Part of the unimproved portion of 7th Street).

Ron moved to appoint Chief Kerri Blessinger to the Dubois County 9-1-1 Advisory Board, replacing Don Foerster who has asked to be retired from the position. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Miller requested permission to sell the old artificial Christmas tree and other unused Christmas decorations to another municipality, subject to the reserve set by the Clerk Treasurer. Debbie moved to approve the request. Ron seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Ron moved to pay regular claims. Debbie seconded. Motioned carried 2-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Council Meeting	Thursday	September 21, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Budget Adoption	Thursday	September 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Additional Appropriation	Thursday	September 21, 2023 at 7:15 PM
Petition to Vacate a Public Street	Thursday	September 21, 2023 at 7:30 PM
BZA	Wednesday	August 23, 2023 at 6:30 PM-Cancelled
Plan Commission	Wednesday	August 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM-Cancelled
Park Board	Wednesday	September 13, 2023 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Comm.	Monday	October 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM

As there was no further business to discuss, Ron moved to adjourn. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

ATTEST:

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL

Tamara M Miller
Clerk-Treasurer

Ken Seward

Ron W J

Deva Johnson

Ferdinand Est. 1905



Police Department

243 West 10th Street Ferdinand, Indiana 47532

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

Chief of Police: Kerri Blessinger

Assistant Chief: Christian Gogel

1. The Ferdinand Police Department has been working diligently to obtain additional grant resources. We recently acquired the SAVE Grant which are monies that will be utilized for additional enforcement of school bus safety enforcement.
FPD also recently applied for a grant regarding computer equipment. We were awarded two in-car printers and two scanners. We will continue to work toward grant funding.
2. I am currently working with county-wide service providers to start a CIT Training/Group. This would provide mental health training and services for the citizens of our county. I have also joined the Community Health Group which works with service providers that review trends and issues within our county to identify and address issues and solutions. I have also met with Jodi Richardson with Memorial Hospital to discuss crisis intervention for Ferdinand employees as well as an employee assistance program for employees. Overall, I feel that these are very positive steps for the residents of Ferdinand and Dubois County.
3. The officers of the Ferdinand Police Department attended the Legislative Update that was presented by the Dubois County Prosecutor's Office. This training discussed and addressed the many changes and updates to Indiana laws and how they affect our operations.
4. On July 19th, the Ferdinand Police Department participated in the event held by the YMCA. This had emergency services vehicles and representatives present to let children look at our vehicles and discuss emergency operations.
5. July 22nd was the Fireman's Ball held in Ferdinand. The event was successful and there we no reported criminal issues.
6. As per the last meeting, the Ferdinand Police Department addressed the speeding complaint on 3rd Street. Not only did we provide dedicated time and resources, we also had the speed trailer placed on the street. The Ferdinand Police Department did not receive any correspondence from the complainants.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerri Blessinger, Chief of Police

Ferdinand Police Department

243 W 10th Street, Ferdinand Indiana 47532

Phone: 812-482-9150 / Fax: 812-998-2094

Chief of Police: Kerri Blessinger

Assistant Chief: Christian Gogel

Total Calls For Service		Calls For Service Report July 2023	
	277		
Complaint Type	Total	Complaint Type	Total
Alarm	1	Missing Person Adult/Child	
Animal Complaint	4	Parking Violation	
Assist Other Agency	12	Property Lost/Found/Recovered	1
Battery/ Assault		Protective/Restraining Order	
Burglary (attempted)		Prowler (report of)	
Burning Complaint	1	Report to Station	2
Child Abuse/Neglect	1	Return Messages	24
Civil Matter /Dispute		State Dispatch	12
Citizen Assist	4	Scam	1
Debris in Roadway	7	Security Check	40
Disabled/Stranded Vehicle	7	Suicide/or a Suicidal Person	
Disturbance/Disorderly Person	2	Suspicious Person/Vehicle	7
Drug Complaint		Theft	1
Domestic Problem	3	Traffic Control	
Escort	1	Traffic Warnings	41
Eviction	1	Traffic Citations	3
Extra Patrol	46	Trespassing	
Fight		Threats/ Intimidation	1
Finger Printing		Vandalism	1
Fire	1	Vehicle Accident	8
General Information	24	Vehicle Accident Leaving the Scene	
Gun Permit		Vehicle Check	2
Harassment	1	Vehicle Lock Out	
Hazardous/ Not Chemical		Warrant	1
Investigation	3	Weather Related Problems	
Identity Theft		Welfare Check	2
Illegal Dumping		911 false calls	
Intoxicated Person / Driver	2		
Juvenile Incurrigible/Runaway	2		
Lines/ Poles Down			
Lost/ Stolen License Plate			
Mental Subject	2		



FERDINAND FIRE DEPT.

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

2023 Summary of Incidents

	FIRE	EMR		TOTAL
JANUARY	2	12		14
FEBRUARY	2	13		15
MARCH	4	14		17
APRIL	2	4		6
MAY	5	18		23
JUNE	3	15		18
JULY	3	8		11
AUGUST				
SEPTEMBER				
OCTOBER				
NOVEMBER				
DECEMBER				

We would like to thank everyone for coming out the Firemen's Ball!!

Shaun Mehling has quit the fire department.

John Jones has the truck and is currently upfitting it with the lights, siren, and radios. Delivery is expected by the end of the month.

Electric Department Report

August 15, 2023

- 1unplanned outages
 - Storm damage (lightning destroyed equipment) 30 customers without power approx. 2.5 hours
- Pole change outs east side of main street area
- Main street lighting from 13th to 3rd Grass seeding left to do



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

Town Council Meeting

August 15, 2023

Finished the curb and gutter on Georgia Street, back filled the curb and put stone by driveway approaches. We would need a lot more stone to shape the street profile to meet the new curbs and we already have more than 1,000.00 dollars in stone committed and would need at least 3 to 5 more. I do not have that available in my budget I intend to wait until our paving projects start and could manage to get road millings hauled in for no cost to the Town. Unless told differently.

Starting on the annual storm water detention inspection.

Helped pave back the utility cuts on East 10th street.

Continuing mowing and spraying along street right-of-ways.

Did some mid-season service and cleaning on some seasonal equipment due to the heavy use from all the storms and rain.

Worked on some ditch areas where some more rip-rap needed to be added to stabilize the flow line and areas that needed to be redirected towards the flow line.

Visit us for a day. Join us for a lifetime.

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

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member
CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager



Town of Ferdinand
 2065 Main Street
 PO Box 7
 FERDINAND, IN 47532-0007
 Phone 812-367-2280
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townofferdinand@psci.net

Water:

MRO's Filled with IDEM

Monthly total use in gallons	7,750,000
Max used a Day	325,000
Min. used a Day	181,000
Avg. Daily use	263233.33

Seek approval to purchase materials for Vienna Drive water main for price came in at \$32,750

Water main project to start in next couple days for the main on Vienna Drive for the Storm Culvert replacement. It has been moved up for because the Contractor for the Culvert has moved up their start date.

Finishing up Virginia Meter change out to outside meters this coming week.

Wastewater:

Monthly IDEM reports are submitted

Monthly plant flow 11.32 Millon gallons
 52% capacity
 Solids discharged 3.6 mg/l per day average
 Phosphorus levels of .5 mg/l out of a limit of 1 mg/l average

IDEXX System is working well, we will be ready to start submitting to IDEM for a certification ability come January.

Sprinkler system,

July usage 7 nights
 Average per day 20,000
 Total gallons 140200

Ben Brinkman
 Water/Wastewater Superintendent



PARKS DEPARTMENT TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

August 2023

General Park Report

- The park board meeting was held on August 8, 2023.
- Following the culmination of the youth softball and baseball league seasons, the board met with leaders of the leagues to gather feedback and prepare for the offseason.
- The board elected to purchase a number a number of trees for MBCI Fields, 5th Street, 18th Street, and Old Town Lake which will be planted later this fall.
- The park department replaced the drum caps for the damaged drums at the musical park at the 18th Street Park. The Psi Iota Xi - Ferdinand Indiana Chapter Iota Lambda made the donation and we're grateful for the Sorority's continued support.

Matthew Weyer
August 13, 2023



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2065 Main Street
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www.ferdinandindiana.org

TOWN MANAGER TALKING POINTS FOR AUGUST 15, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

1 – Tomorrow night marks the final session of the 2023 Dubois County Leadership Academy, with our graduation ceremony. The three teams will take the stage and present their Capstone Projects, highlighting the process from idea conception to where things stand as of right now. Each group has come up with very good projects, that should benefit numerous people. One team is partnering with area organizations to provide naloxone in the event of a drug overdose situation and also working improve the facilities at the Next Step Recovery Home. Another team has taken on the task of providing multiple LUCAS devices, which are automated CPR devices, throughout the county and our third team is assisting the Dove Recovery House to make that facility more conducive to hosting children visits.

2 – Preparations for the 2023 Ferdinand Folk Festival are shifting into high gear, as we are one month and one day away from our 13th annual event. The volunteer committee is meeting later this week to go over what has been done and what still needs to be accomplished in the next five weeks to have yet another successful event. Vendor applications are still being accepted until Friday September 1, while the early filers will be receiving their info packets in the next week or so. Our team is also populating store and business windows with Folk Festival posters to add to our promotional efforts. Many thanks to all of our sponsors again this year, allowing us to keep the Folk Festival a free event- especially our co-presenting sponsors Best Home Furnishings & MasterBrand.

Visit us for a day. Join us for a lifetime.

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

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member
CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager

3 – Information relating to the culvert replacement project on Vienna Drive has been shared with school officials, area media, local emergency officials, central dispatch and the post office. Signage noting road closures has been posted by Knies Construction to give motorists as much advance notice as possible before the actual closure takes effect. One unintended consequence of the work is a late adjustment to the Heartland Half-Marathon route, which was going to utilize Vienna Drive and East 22nd Streets. Organizers were notified of the area that will be closed and have made the necessary modifications to still hit their distance goal.

4 – Next week is the 2023 AIM Idea Summit which will be held once again in French Lick. Debbie and I will be attending all three days, sitting in on a considerable variety of presentations and discussions, trying to glean useful information that will benefit the Town as we move forward on planning and funding multiple projects.

5 – Finally, on a somewhat related note, at least in regards to funding, Debbie and I attended OCRA's Southwest Indiana regional meeting in Huntingburg. There was some good information shared along with examples of project successes in the region. The keynote speaker, Sullivan Mayor Clint Lamb, had most in attendance fired up and ready to take immediate action by the end of his talk.

Visit us for a day. Join us for a lifetime.

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CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager