

TOWN OF FERDINAND

REGULAR MEETING

December 13, 2023

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, December 13, 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 Jenna Jones, Abbie Brockman, Rock Emmert as agent for Southwestern Indiana Citizens for Quality of Life, Kris Lasher, Mary Hess the President of Southwestern Indiana Citizens for Quality of Life, Lauren Klem, Zoey Bright, Reid Howard and Kiersten Voegerl.

Ron moved to approve the Minutes of the November 21, 2023 Council Meeting. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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

The Council congratulated Fire Chief John Hoppenjans for being elected to another three-year term as Ferdinand Fire Chief.

Lueken announced the street department will pick up leaves for one more week.

Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-21, an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No 2022-47 Regarding Salaries, Compensation and Wages for Elected Officials, Appointees and Employees of the Town of Ferdinand adding Brian Hoffman; Water/Wastewater Laborer/Apprentice at \$24.00 per hour, 40 hours per week plus an additional \$0.50 per hour upon obtaining CDL; \$24.99 per hour after the first 1,000 hours completed; \$25.49 per hour after the next 1,000 hours completed; \$26.00 per hour after the next 1,000 hours completed; \$26.52 per hour after the next 1,000 hours completed; and \$26.96 after successfully obtaining an Operator's License; plus 2 hour minimum at straight time for weekend lab testing, at the meeting it was introduced. This amendment is effective January 3, 2024. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-22, An Ordinance Amending the Ferdinand Municipal Code Regarding Park Leases and Fees to increase the fee for the entire 5th Street or 18th Street Park (includes shelter houses, volleyball courts, ball fields, horseshoe pits, etc.) from \$350 to \$500.00 per

day, at the meeting it was introduced. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Matt Weyer, Park Board President, stated the February Park Board meeting will be on February 7, 2024 at 4:30 pm instead of February 14, 2024. Weyer stated that Jill Schipp is willing to serve another term on the Park Board. Ken moved to appoint Jill Schipp to the Park Board for another 4-year term. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

James stated the Folk Fest Committee met recently and has doubled in size and Kim Fischer is now on the committee. The committee will meet again in January.

Rock Emmert, representing the Southwestern Indiana Citizens for Quality of Life, spoke to the Council regarding current grant opportunities: Inflation Reduction Act, Indiana's Climate Action Plan, and the IU Environmental Resilience Institute. The officers of Southwestern Indiana Citizens for Quality of Life would like to discuss ideas and options to best utilize available funds for the community's good. Hopefully, IDEM will listen and work with Ferdinand's leadership. The grant has a short window of opportunity. He stated after SWICQL's grueling but successful effort to protect Ferdinand by stopping the massive, polluting Riverview refinery from being built five miles upwind from town, Emmert hopes that SWICQL has earned a place at the table of local environmental health. Emmert requested the Council to invite Bill Brown, IU Center for Environmental Resilience, to discuss over 400 grant opportunities. Sicard stated he has spoken to Bill Brown and they are meeting tomorrow to talk about an environmental action plan for Ferdinand. Sicard requested a template from IDEM for an environmental action plan (EAP). Sicard stated currently has several procedures in place that are environmentally friendly, such as using recycled water to water the ball fields at 5th Street Park, collecting electronics for recycling during the bi-annual town-wide clean-up and installing LED street lighting. The Town purchases power from NextEra, 95 % of the power they supply is renewable. Sicard stated that he is looking into grants that may be available to help cover the cost of an EAP. The Council thanked Emmert and the others for attending and will follow up after meeting with Bill Brown.

The Council is working to fill town-appointed positions.

Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-23, An Ordinance Authorizing Investment of Town Funds with Certain Approved Depositories at the meeting it was introduced. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Miller reported we received the official close-out letter for CMG 2022.

CCMG 2022-02 Culvert Project was completed by Knies Construction.

CCMG 2023-01 work will be done in the spring of 2024.

CCMG 2023-2 Award to the Town was \$476,465.97. Ron moved to set the opening of bids at a Special Meeting on February 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ken moved to approve the proposal from Universal Design for the CCMG 2024-01 grant planning and application phase for \$8,000 and the final design and bidding phase for \$9,500. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard stated there is nothing new to report regarding the Local Safety Tax.

Critical Incident Safety Management – tabled until the next regular meeting.

Miller distributed the accounts receivable report to the Council.

Debbie stated she and Tom Lueken met with Universal Design on the Main Street sidewalk project. Universal Design is working on preliminary engineering numbers.

Brinkman stated the majority of the water customer surveys are being returned.

Tom Lueken, Property and Street Superintendent, stated the Senior Citizens Center roof work was completed.

Resolution – ARPA Plan Amendment – tabled until the next meeting.

Ron moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-24, An Ordinance Adopting Employee Handbook to be Codified as the Replacement Chapter 3.25, Personnel Policy, of the municipal Code of the Town of Ferdinand at the meeting it was introduced. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

AMI Meters – tabled until the next regular meeting.

James stated the cyber security assessment has been submitted to the IOT. The IOT review will be relayed to the Town in January.

Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-25, An Ordinance Approving Town of Ferdinand Equipment Usage Schedule of Fees and Charges at the meeting it was introduced. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Salary Ordinance – tabled until the December special meeting. A special meeting was set for December 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Ron moved to approve the special claims from Knies Construction for \$13,395 and \$37,287.23 and one from Green Thumb Garden Center for \$8,812.50. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:


Town Council Meeting	Wednesday	December 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM
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

Note: BZA and Plan Commission December 20, 2023 meetings were cancelled.


As there was no further business to discuss, Debbie moved to adjourn. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

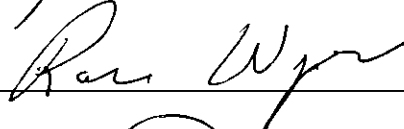
ATTEST:


FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL



Clerk-Treasurer









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	8	10		18
SEPTEMBER	6	14		20
OCTOBER	3	5		8
NOVEMBER	3	10		13
DECEMBER				

Truck 406 went into Ruxers for an ERG valve that went bad. It is fixed and covered under warranty. Warranty runs out on that truck at years end.

In the December meeting I did get elected to another 3 year term.



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

November was a busy month for the Ferdinand Police Department. We were notified by the Substance Abuse Council that the department received grant funding totaling approximately \$715. Officer Rayce Jones applied for and received the funds to pay for needle resistant gloves, Narcan holsters for our uniforms, and sharps containers. Great job Rayce!

I gave a talk to the guests of the luncheon at the Scenic Hills Assisted Living Community on November 7th. The discussion was regarding common scams and how to prevent being a victim of financial scams.

On November 8th, I met with the intro to Social Work class at the VUJC. I discussed the importance of de-escalation as well as the facets of mental health issues in law enforcement.

The weekend of Chriskindlmarkt was very busy with traffic control and safety patrols. However, I am happy to report that there were no traffic crashes reported over the entire weekend. We were very proud to represent our town.

On November 30th the Town of Ferdinand held a safety luncheon. I gave a presentation regarding recognizing substance abuse issues in co-workers and employees to ensure the safety of the members of the work force as well as the residents of Ferdinand.

As the fiscal year comes to a close, we continue to utilize our resources to the best of our ability and strive to provide excellent police services. Happy Holidays!

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerri Blessinger, Chief

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 November 2023	
	273		
Complaint Type	Total	Complaint Type	Total
Alarm	7	Missing Person Adult/Child	1
Animal Complaint	4	Parking Violation	1
Assist Other Agency	20	Property Lost/Found/Recovered	
Battery/ Assault		Protective/Restraining Order	
Burglary (attempted)		Prowler (report of)	
Burning Complaint		Report to Station	1
Child Abuse/Neglect		Return Messages	14
Civil Matter /Dispute		State Dispatch	5
Citizen Assist	8	Scam	
Debris in Roadway		Security Check	54
Disabled/Stranded Vehicle	3	Suicide/or a Suicidal Person	
Disturbance/Disorderly Person	2	Suspicious Person/Vehicle	4
Drug Complaint		Theft	2
Domestic Problem	1	Traffic Control	1
Escort	1	Traffic Warnings	40
Eviction		Traffic Tickets	12
Extra Patrol	44	Trespassing	
Fight		Threats/ Intimidation	
Finger Printing		Vandalism	
Fire	1	Vehicle Accident	11
General Information	13	Vehicle Accident Leaving the Scene	
Gun Permit		Vehicle Check	2
Harassment			
Hazardous/ Not Chemical		Warrant	
Investigation	4	Weather Related Problems	
Identity Theft		Welfare Check	5
Illegal Dumping		911 false calls	5
Intoxicated Person	2	Pursuit	1
Juvenile Incurrigible/Runaway			
Lines/ Poles Down			
Lost/ Stolen License Plate	1		
Mental Subject	2		

Electric Department Report

Dec 13, 2023

- 1 unplanned outage
 - 12 customers for one hour unknown
- Pole change outs east side of main street area
 - 4kv upgrade transformers
- Town hall Generator waiting for fuel hook up
- Back up substation transformer oil leak repair
 - Waiting for scheduling



Town of Ferdinand
2065 Main Street
PO Box 7
FERDINAND, IN 47532-0007
Phone 812-367-2280
Fax 812-367-1303
townofferdinand@psci.net

Water:

November usage:

Total Gallons	6,776,000.00
Max. Day	210,000.00
Min. Day	64,000.00
Avg. Daily	225866.6667

Flushing has stopped for the year

Moved 3 services out of home

Wastewater:

Monthly IDEM reports are submitted

Lift Station 1

Both pumps are up and running

In a separate note,

Permission to hire Brian Hoffman for the open Water/Wastewater position

Ben Brinkman

Water/Wastewater Superintendent



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Town Council Meeting

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Will make announcement the curbside leaf pick up will end at the end of this week. However, I am sure we will have calls they didn't see or hear the announcement so we will spot pick up the following week.

We thought Town opening up storm inlets that had been clogged up by leaves.

Worked a couple days digging out dirt areas on Georgia Street and putting down milling compacting them for road sub base then topping with some #8 stone then rolling them smooth for the winter until we will get more milling to shape the road to the needed profile.

I did get my ERC recertification.

Have two pieces of equipment setup for winter weather emergency. Will be servicing and running all other snow and ice equipment very soon to ensure it's available and ready to go when needed.

New Business

Close out letter. Received.

CCMG 2022-02 Completed and signed the final pay app.

CCMG 2023-01 will be done in the spring the weather is getting to where they don't want to start and not be able to finish until spring.

Senior Center roof last week I was told it's scheduled for the week of [December 11th](#).

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



PARKS DEPARTMENT TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

December 2023

General Park Report

- The park board meeting will be held on December 13, 2023 just before the town council meeting.
- The board will be approving 2024 park lease rates.
- The park board would like to thank Eagle Scout candidate Kennedy Staton for her Eagle Scout project in which she installed a human sundial project at the 18th Street Park. The new human sundial is located just north of the basketball/pickleball courts.

Matthew Weyer
December 11, 2023



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Fax 812-367-1303
E-mail: twnofferdinand@psci.net
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TOWN MANAGER TALKING POINTS FOR DECEMBER 13, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

1 – Ken, Ron, Tammy, Sharon and I sat in on a Residential TIF webinar Monday morning at Town Hall, presented by the Indiana Finance Authority. A lot of good information was provided in this session, which opens up several options of unexplored funding options for the Town as we look to move forward with several projects in 2024. Next steps include receiving expert guidance from the proper financial officials. This will help Council and Tammy determine what is the best approach to take for obtaining necessary dollars.

2 – Ben and I attended a Water/Wastewater Cybersecurity seminar at the AWWA conference last week. Based on its current figuration as a closed system, with any adjustments handled manually, the plant is what I would describe as reasonably secure. The goal will be to maintain that status as future upgrades are installed.

3 – Also, on the topic of cybersecurity, the Town has successfully submitted our Written Discovery Request to the joint IU/PU team as part of the IOT's cyber security assessment process. Officials will be reviewing our packet and will provide their findings during a meeting in mid-January. This session is when we'll get a truer picture of where we stand and how to move forward with corrections and adjustments.

4 – Our next I-PEP safety program, originally scheduled for last Friday, December 8, has been rescheduled for 10am on Wednesday December

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

20 in the Mobil Room. This session will cover all facets of Winter Weather Safety, including equipment operation and maintenance, proper employee clothing, treatment in the event of cold weather injury and more. Although primarily for Town of Ferdinand employees, other I-PEP communities may send employees as well.

5 – I was part of a meeting hosted by Ed Cole with Dubois Strong last week to review portions of the recent Housing Study. We were joined by Josh Gunselman with the City of Jasper and Rachel Steckler with the City of Huntingburg. This was a reset of a meeting held very early this year, before Josh came on as the new Director of Planning and Development. We met for about 45 minutes and discussed various options for finding a reasonably easy “get” to show the plan is being acted upon. Our next meeting is set for early January.

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I am ready for presentation of the website options. I did explain to our bidders that this is the holiday season and they may not hear from us until after the season is over. Each company is willing to speak to the council via zoom or in person which I feel is the BEST idea after we make a few selections.

The winter banners are all on order and should be completed this week. Eclipse advertising banners are completed and Hank will also have them in hand this week.

Working on map for electric department for placement of banners. Eastbound Billboard signage is complete and is ready to go on our end and they are aware of that the light needs to be fixed. (Lamar Advertising)

Westbound Billboard - They can meet our budget at \$5440.00 with only one vinyl - each additional change is \$700 - waiting on word from the board. (JR Promotions)

Folk Fest Meeting this week.

Thank you & sorry for the miss.
Please let me know if you have any questions!

--

Kim Fischer

Marketing Director

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

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