

Town of Orland

9535 W. State Road 120, Orland, Indiana- Community Center Bldg.

March 9, 2026 Town Council Meeting

6:30pm

1. Opening prayer recited before meeting start.

2. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

3. Council President Robin Sears called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll call: Council President, Robin Sears was present, Council Vice President Chris Sanders was absent and Councilman Zeb Schuette was present. The Clerk-Treasurer, April Sanders was present to record the meeting. Town Attorney Kevin Bruns was absent.

Marshal Kline was present, but appeared later in the evening. Maintenance Superintendent Phil Slisher was present.

Town residents Kevin Kellett and Jim Milleman were present. Ray Hagemeister and Christian Granados were present representing the Orland Tigers Youth League. Kris Wheaton and Becky Maust were present representing the Orland Chamber of Commerce.

4. Clerks Report - *The Clerk-Treasurer submitted financial statements for Council review. Employee time sheets were provided electronically and, when possible, signed during payroll verification prior to Council meetings.*

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes- Town council reviewed the February 9, 2026 meeting minutes. Councilman Schuette made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 9, 2026 as presented, Council President Sears seconded the motion, motion carried.

B. Claims – Town Council reviewed the claims as presented. Councilman Schuette made a motion to accept the claims from the dates of February 10, 2026 through March 9, 2026 as presented, Council President Sears seconded the motion, motion carried.

C. Approval of Employee Time Sheets and Payroll - Councilman Schuette made a motion to accept the employee time sheets and payroll for pay #4 and pay #5 of 2026, Council President Sears seconded the motion, motion carried.

D. Approval of February 2026 Bank Reconciliation- Clerk-Treasurer provided the February 2026 bank reconciliation reports. Council approved by signing off on log provided.

5. Reports-

A. *Street Department* – Maintenance Superintendent Phil Slisher submitted his monthly report. Major activities included:

- Park spring cleanup underway
- Removal of volunteer trees and brush from pine trees throughout park
- Obtaining quotes for office building wall repair
- Contact with supplier regarding dust control for park driveway
- Street sweeping scheduled

Ongoing Issue – *Drainage Concern*-Maintenance reported continued interference with a town drainage system by a resident:

- Movement of materials near drain
- Potential damage to infrastructure

Further discussion to occur following another meeting.

B. *Police Department* – Marshal Kline reported:

- He is currently on administrative duty pending medical clearance
- Installation of in-car camera systems completed
- Emergency lights installed on patrol vehicle
- New laptop and software integration in progress
- Coordination with Chamber for Settlement Festival safety planning

Additional Discussion:

- Inquiry into “Jake Brake” signage—Marshal to research state regulations

C. *Water Department*- No report.

D. *Park Department*- No report.

6. Old Business-

A. *2026 Sculpture Program*- Council selected “Light of Liberty” as the 2026 sculpture theme. Size parameters were confirmed (36” minimum, 8 ft maximum, 5x5 footprint). Current sculpture will be relocated to the depot porch with consideration for lighting. Timeline includes artist selection in May and unveiling on July 8.

B. *Orland Tiger Youth League Agreement*-

Ray Hagemeister and Christian Granados addressed the Council regarding:

- Clarification on installation of soccer goals (temporary only; no permanent alterations)
- Use of park for soccer and potential partnerships (e.g., Indiana 11 organization)
- Inquiry about private training/business use of park (requires separate agreement)
- Request to reinvest league funds into park improvements (requires Council approval)

Park Concerns & Discussion:

- Primitive restroom conditions
- Proposal to close restrooms temporarily vs. keeping open
- Strong Council feedback that restrooms are heavily used and should remain open
- Discussion of improvements:
 - Solar lighting
 - Ventilation and cleanliness upgrades
 - Possible donation-based/community improvement effort

Additional Items:

- League will provide portable restrooms during season
- Request to add portable handwashing station near concession area
- Registration numbers:
 - Limited softball participation (potential cancellation)
 - Baseball teams confirmed (multiple age groups)
 - Exploring alternative placement for softball players or soccer participation

Homeschool Athlete Participation

Discussion regarding homeschool students participating in Prairie Heights athletics:

- Requires part-time enrollment (minimum class requirement)
- Allows participation in sports and activities under school insurance

Council clarified that no permanent changes may be made without approval. 2026 Agreement signed by Council and League.

7. New Business –

A. Kris Wheaton-Orland Area Chamber of Commerce – Kris Wheaton (Chamber President) and representatives addressed the Council regarding:

- Progress reestablishing the Chamber and operating legally
- Focus on fundraising and community engagement
- Recent event: Father-Daughter Dance
- Planning for Vermont Settlement Festival (primary fundraiser)
- Future events including a Mother-Son event

Council discussed collaboration opportunities between Town events and Chamber activities. Council and Chamber signed the 2026 Settlement Festival Agreement.

B. Kevin Kellett- Park Memorials and Water Feature-
Kevin Kellett proposed:

- Relocating existing 9/11 memorial plaque from park to downtown area
- Installing two new trees (symbolizing Twin Towers)
- Donation of trees and labor from local business
- Potential improvements to memorial stone
- Possible incorporation with future water feature

Council Consensus:

- Proceed with planning and coordination

No formal motion required at this stage (preliminary work approved). Council supported moving forward with planning.

C. 2026 Library Contract- Annual agreement with Joyce Public Library in the amount of \$11,500 was reviewed and signed.

Public Comments/Questions concerning ADA or other items of Business –

No additional public comment.

Council signed all necessary documents and check register reports before closing the meeting.

With no other comments or items of business, the motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Schuette to adjourn the meeting, Council President Sears seconded the motion, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Robin Sears – Council President

Chris Sanders – Council Vice President

Zeb Schuette- Councilman

Attest: _____
April Sanders, Clerk-Treasurer