

Town of Orland

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

April 13, 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 present 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 and Deputy Ross Holman were present. Maintenance Superintendent Phil Slisher was present.

Town residents Kevin Kellett and Jim Milleman were present. Isaac Lee from Steuben County EDC was present. Tammy DeTro and Amelia DeTro were also present representing Consolidated Packaging Group. Rachel Marsh was present representing Madsen Steel Wire. Millgrove Township Trustee Charles Clark was present.

Public Hearing – Reestablishment of Cumulative Capital Development Fund

Council opened the public hearing regarding the reestablishment of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. The proposed ordinance increases the levy from \$0.04 to \$0.05 per \$100 of assessed valuation beginning with taxes payable in 2027. Discussion was held regarding changes in tax structure and the need to maintain sufficient revenue for Town operations. No public comments were received. The public hearing was closed.

Adoption of Ordinance 2026-003 Reestablishing Cumulative Capital Development Fund

Councilman Schuette made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-003 as presented and waive the second reading. Council Vice President Sanders seconded the motion, motion carried.

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 March 9, 2026 meeting minutes. Councilman Schuette made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 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 March 10, 2026 through April 13, 2026 as presented, Council President Sears seconded the motion, motion carried.

C. Approval of Employee Time Sheets and Payroll – Council Vice President Sanders made a motion to accept the employee time sheets and payroll for pay #6, #7 and pay #8 of 2026, Councilman Schuette seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

E. HB 1048-VFD Clothing and Automobile Allowances-Clerk-Treasurer provided updates on new legislation impacting the Town. HB 1048 requires direct annual payments to volunteer firefighters for clothing and automobile allowances. Council will coordinate with other units and the Fire Department to determine cost allocation and compliance prior to July 1, 2026. Potential use of TIF funds was discussed.

F. HB 1001-Housing- Requires municipalities to evaluate housing barriers, collect and report housing data annually, and conduct a housing audit by December 31, 2026. Council will need to conduct public hearings and evaluate local development standards. Further coordination with Town Attorney, County Planning, and other entities will be required.

G. Indiana Bond Bank Fuel Budgeting Program- Discussion was held regarding the Indiana Bond Bank Fueling Budget Program. Clerk-Treasurer Sanders presented the program as a voluntary fuel price hedging option designed to protect the Town from fluctuations in gasoline prices. It was explained that the Town would continue purchasing fuel through its current vendor, while the program would establish a price cap, with the Indiana Bond Bank issuing payments to the Town if market prices exceed the capped rate, or requiring repayment if prices fall below it. The program would primarily apply to gasoline usage for the Police and Street Departments and could cover up to 80% of the Town's annual fuel consumption, leaving a buffer for usage variability. The Council discussed the potential benefit of stabilizing fuel costs within the Town's budget and inquired about participation by other municipalities. No action was taken at this time.

H. Surplus Property- Discussion was held regarding surplus property, specifically older picnic tables previously located at the park that are no longer in usable condition. Maintenance Superintendent Slisher explained that several tables have deteriorated beyond repair and are being removed as part of ongoing park cleanup efforts. The Council discussed and approved the process for declaring the items as surplus. Items will be sold by sealed bid with a minimum bid to start at \$25.00 per table. Sealed bids will be opened at the May 11, 2026 council meeting. Advertisement in the newspaper according to statute will be followed.

I. Spring Clean Up- Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for Saturday, June 20th.

J. Verdin Clock Company Quote-Discussion was held regarding the Verdin clock and its current condition, including ongoing maintenance needs and associated costs. The Council considered options for repair and long-term upkeep to ensure the clock remains operational and continues to serve as a focal point within the community. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Schuette to approve the quote of \$2,470.00 to upgrade to LED lighting inside the clock as presented, seconded by Council Vice President Sanders, and the motion carried.

K. Flag Banners- Discussion was held regarding the purchase of Town flag banners to be displayed on street light poles within the downtown area to commemorate America's 250th Birthday. The Council reviewed design concepts and discussed placement, durability, and overall cost. The banners were viewed as a way to enhance the Town's appearance and community identity. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Schuette to approve the purchase of the banners not to exceed \$2,000.00, seconded by Council President Sears, and the motion carried. Council Vice President Sanders to handle the project.

5. Reports-

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

- Three quotes were received for repair of the west wall of the office/garage building. Council requested references from the lowest bidder before proceeding. No action was taken at this time. Quotes that were presented were DS Services for \$2,450.00, Dan Hershberger Construction for \$4,000.00 and Willms Excavating for \$4,511.20.
- Quotes were presented for replacement of dugout roofs at the lower diamond.

Councilman Schuette made a motion to approve Dan Hershberger Construction for replacement of the dugout roofs in the amount of \$1,300.00, Council Vice President Sanders seconded the motion, motion carried.

Additional updates included:

- Spring cleanup at the park and removal of trees and stumps
- Donation of calcium chloride for dust control
- Scoreboard repair efforts underway
- Memorial Park water feature removed for inspection; Council discussed repair vs. replacement and supported attempting repair
- New flags installed at parks
- Playground lighting repaired
- Street sweeping completed and scheduled again prior to the Settlement Festival

B. Police Department – A ceremonial swearing-in was conducted for Deputy Marshal Ross Holman, whose official appointment was effective January 15, 2026. The oath of office was administered and remarks were made welcoming him to the department. Marshal Kline reported that Deputy Holman brings prior law enforcement experience and will serve the Town effectively.

Marshal Kline reported returning to full duty. The department is obtaining quotes for a new speed sign and evaluating the potential sale of an older, non-functioning sign.

Additional Discussion:

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

6. Old Business-

A. Nuisance Property – Legal Action Authorization-

Discussion was held regarding a property causing ongoing nuisance concerns. Councilman Schuette made a motion to authorize Beers Maller’s to proceed with legal action, authorize the Council President to execute necessary documents, and to proceed within the existing legal budget with the option for additional appropriations, if necessary, Council Vice President Sanders seconded the motion, motion carried.

7. New Business –

A. Pass Ordinance 2026-003- This was completed at the beginning of the meeting.

B. Amelia DeTro- CPG Tax Abatement Compliance-Representatives presented compliance documentation for CPG’s tax abatement. It was noted that employment levels exceeded required thresholds and the company remains in compliance. Councilman Schuette made a motion to approve the CF-1 for CPG for 2026 pay 2027, Council Vice President Sanders seconded the motion, motion carried.

C. Brett Kellett-Orland Redevelopment Commission Annual Report for 2025- Bret Kellett was unavailable to present the report; therefore, ORC Vice President Kevin Kellett presented on his behalf. The annual report summarized 2025 activity, including expenditures for engineering, financial reporting, and road construction services. The Redevelopment Commission concluded 2025 with an ending balance of \$257,327.85.

D. Madsen Steel Wire-Tax Abatement Compliance-Discussion was held regarding Madson Wire’s abatement performance. While employment levels are slightly below projections due to retirements, payroll and capital investment exceed expectations. The company is progressing appropriately within the abatement timeline. Councilman Schuette made a motion to approve the CF-1 for Madson Wire for 2026 pay 2027, Council Vice President Sanders seconded the motion, motion carried.

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, seconding the motion was Council President Sears, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Robin Sears – Council President

Chris Sanders – Council Vice President

Zeb Schuette- Councilman

Attest:_____
April Sanders, Clerk-Treasurer