

Town of Orland

9535 W. State Road 120, Orland, Indiana- Community Center Bldg.
January 12, 2026 Town Council Meeting
6:30pm

1. Opening prayer recited before meeting start.

2. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

3. Councilwoman Robin Sears called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

Roll call: Councilwoman, Robin Sears was present, Councilman 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 present.

Also present:

Maintenance Superintendent Phil Slisher.

Town residents: Jim Milleman and Kevin Kellett were present.

Guests: Lee Greenamy, Steuben County Emergency Management Director, Chelsea Grider from RCAP, Jesslyn Senecal and Chris Emerick.

Reorganization of Council

Election of Officers – Town Attorney Kevin Bruns opened the floor for nominations for President of the Town Council. A nomination was made by Councilman Chris Sanders to nominate that the 2025 officers continue to serve in the same roles for 2026, with Robin Sears serving as Council President and Chris Sanders serving as Council Vice President. Councilman Chris Sanders made a motion to close the nomination. Councilman Zeb Schuette seconded the motion the motion passed 3-0-0. Councilwoman Robin Sears was elected President elect for 2026 by acclamation. Councilman Chris Sanders was elected Vice President elect for 2026 by acclamation.

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- Councilman Schuette made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 8, 2025 as presented, Council Vice President Sanders 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 December 9, 2025 through January 12, 2026 as presented, Council Vice President Sanders 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 #26 of 2025 and pay #1 of 2026, Councilman Schuette seconded the motion, motion carried.

D. Approval of December 2025 Bank Reconciliation- Clerk-Treasurer provided the December 2025 bank reconciliation reports. Council approved by signing off on the log provided.

E. American Legal Publishing Memo- Clerk-Treasurer Sanders presented the suggested amendments to the Town’s code with regards to the recent ordinance affecting park authority. Council agreed to forward the matter to the Town Attorney for review prior to approval.

5. Reports-

A. Street Department – Maintenance Superintendent Phil Slisher presented his report.

Light Pole Issue – Phil reported that the new street light pole was wired and functioning properly. Three additional lights were replaced but remain nonfunctional and will be addressed when weather conditions improve.

Police Garage Wall Rot – Phil updated four contractors were contacted for bids to repair steel siding and skirt boards on the west wall of the Police Department building, with one bid received to date.

Folding Tables – Phil further updated routine equipment maintenance and the Community Center table repairs were also completed.

Council President Sears asked if there were any updates on the Tim Simons matter involving IDEM. Phil reported no.

B. Police Department – Marshal Kline was absent but provided his monthly report. Marshal Kline requested approval to hire a fifth part-time Deputy Marshal to fill a vacancy. Council President Sears made a motion to hire Ross Holman as a part-time Deputy Marshal at a rate of \$30.00 per hour, effective upon completion of the oath of office, Councilman Schuette seconded the motion, motion carried.

Equipment Purchase – Councilman Schuette made a motion to approve the installation of a new camera system into the 2023 Ford Explorer in the amount of \$487.50 from Cole’s Auto Detailing LLC, Council President Sears seconded the motion, motion carried.

Councilman Schuette made a motion to approve the installation of a new light system into the 2023 Ford Explorer in the amount of \$1,260.00 from Cole's Auto Detailing LLC, Council President Sears seconded the motion, motion carried.

Councilman Schuette made a motion to approve a shadow box for donated police badges for display in the Marshal's Office in the amount of \$750.00, Council President Sears seconded the motion, motion carried.

C. Water Department- No report.

D. Park Department- No report.

6. Old Business-

A. Public Hearing for Garbage Rate Changes- Council President Sears opened the public hearing regarding Ordinance 2026-001 establishing new garbage rates. The ordinance was previously introduced at the December 2025 meeting. A sign-in sheet was provided for the public. The public was invited to comment; no public comments were received. The public hearing was closed. Councilman Schuette made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-001 amending rates and charges for the collection and disposal of garbage and rubbish and to waive the final reading, Council Vice President Sanders seconded the motion, the motion carried.

B. Public Hearing for Water Rate Changes- Council President Sears opened the public hearing regarding Ordinance 2026-002 establishing new water rates. A sign-in sheet was provided for the public. Chelsea Grider of RCAP presented a detailed rate analysis outlining rising operational costs, aging infrastructure, debt service obligations, and the need to stabilize the Water Improvement Fund. Ms. Grider explained that the proposed rate increase would eliminate projected operating deficits while remaining within EPA affordability guidelines. Council discussion followed regarding long-term sustainability, capital improvement planning, and funding strategies. Public questions and comments were allowed during the hearing. After discussion, the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Schuette made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-002 establishing rates and charges for the use and services of the Town's waterworks system, Council Vice President Sanders seconded the motion, motion carried.

Councilman Schuette made a motion to waive the second reading of Ordinance 2026-002 and adopt the ordinance on the night of introduction, Council Vice President Sanders seconded the motion, motion carried.

7. New Business –

- A. **Re-Organization of Council Members-** This happened after the opening of the meeting and is reflected in the beginning of the minutes.
- B. **Appointment to Region 3A –** Council President Sears appointed Councilman Zeb Schuette as Orland's Region 3A Representative.

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

Lee Greenamy, Steuben County Emergency Management Director thanked the Town for its representation by Marshal Kline at the first Mitigation Meeting. The second meeting is planned for January 28th if anyone from the Town is able to attend. Mr. Greenamy further updated that on February 24th at 6pm there will be a small meeting at the Joyce Public Library on spring weather and tornados. Council President Sears wanted to be sure the Orland Volunteer Fire Department would be present to explain to the public the different sirens that are played during certain weather events and what each one means. Mr. Greenamy would look into it.

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 8:35 p.m.

Robin Sears – Council President

Chris Sanders – Council Vice President

Zeb Schuette- Councilman

Attest: _____
April Sanders, Clerk-Treasurer