

Town of Orland

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

February 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 6:34 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.

Deputy Marshal Spires was present. Maintenance Superintendent Phil Slisher was absent.

Town resident Kevin Kellett and Les Wooster were present. Ray Hagemeister, Christian Granados and Torie Strong were present representing the Orland Tigers Youth League. Melody Kain was present representing Kain Tool.

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 January 12, 2026 meeting minutes. Councilman Schuette made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 12, 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 January 13, 2026 through February 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 #2 and pay #3 of 2026, Council President Sears seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

E. Cancellation of Outstanding Warrants- Clerk-Treasurer Sanders reported that Indiana statute requires warrants unpaid for two or more years to be cancelled annually.

- One outstanding warrant remained:
- \$0.50 refund for a water bill overpayment

Council approved cancellation of the warrant and the funds will be returned to the Water Operating Fund.

F. Sculpture Program Updates- Clerk-Treasurer Sanders presented a proposal to align the Town's sculpture program with the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026.

Proposal highlights included:

- Thematic sculpture reflecting America's 250th anniversary
- Potential artistic themes such as liberty, heritage, and national history
- Sculpture size guidelines between 36 inches and 8 feet
- Weather-resistant materials required
- Proposal deadline in spring with installation by early summer
- Target unveiling date of July 8, 2026, commemorating the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence

Council also discussed incorporating recognition of Orland's historical founding into the theme.

Council will review themes and provide feedback before the March meeting when final parameters will be approved. Council also discussed the current sculpture displayed near Sweet Summers and whether the Town or the business will purchase the piece for \$1,000 before the scheduled removal date in June.

5. Reports-

A. Street Department – Maintenance Superintendent Phil Slisher was not present but had submitted his monthly report. It was read by Council Presidents Sears. Major activities included:

- Snow removal operations during January and early February
- Street plowing and sidewalk clearing on SR 120 and SR 327
- Application of deicer where needed
- Clearing snow from fire hydrants for emergency access
- Replacement of a water meter head at 622 N. SR 327
- Water service temporarily suspended and restored due to payment lapse
- Routine water meter readings and usage data logging
- Repairs to the Massey Ferguson tractor and snowblower
- Plowing of the park walking track and park driveway
- Trash collection in the park and downtown areas
- Cleaning of the Community Center after rentals
- Continued organization of the maintenance barn

B. Police Department – Deputy Spires provided the police department update:

- New dash camera systems were installed in the patrol vehicles.
- Cameras activate automatically when emergency lights are activated and sync with body cameras.

- Equipment installation should be fully completed soon.
- The department is finalizing uniform equipment for new deputy hire Ross Homeman, who will begin active duty after firearms qualification.

Council expressed support for the new camera system as an improvement for officer safety and accountability.

C. Water Department- Council discussed heavy water usage due to several structure fires in the area. Approximately 55,000 gallons of water were used during fire response. Water plant operations remained stable with no operational concerns reported. Residents may experience temporary water discoloration due to system flushing caused by high-volume water usage during firefighting activities

D. Park Department- No report.

6. Old Business-

A. No report.

7. New Business –

A. 2026 Orland Tigers Youth League Agreement – Representatives of the Orland Youth League addressed the Council regarding their annual park use license agreement. Requests and discussion included:

- Addition of youth soccer programming alongside baseball
- Soccer proposed to be played on the football fields during baseball season
- Authorization to post league rules in dugouts
- Permission to relocate bat holders to the outside of dugouts for safety
- Discussion regarding stabilizing dugout benches
- Concerns about safety and conditions of the park primitive restroom facilities

Council discussed possible collaboration on improvements and future restroom upgrades. The Clerk-Treasurer will amend the license agreement language to include soccer use and bring the revised agreement back to the March meeting for approval.

B. Kain Tool-Melody Kain; Tax Abatement Compliance- Melody Kain of Kain Tool presented annual CF-1 compliance documentation for existing tax abatements.

Two abatements were reviewed:

- **Resolution 2016-001** – Real property abatement (final year of the abatement period)
- **Resolution 2022-007** – Abatement related to office expansion

Employment levels and investment were reviewed and found to be in compliance with abatement requirements. Council reviewed the documentation and signed the CF-1 forms confirming compliance. Clerk-Treasurer Sanders will forward completed documentation to the county assessor.

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

A resident, Les Wooster, who recently returned to the community attended the meeting to introduce himself and observe town operations. He also provided a prayer before the meeting commenced.

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 Council President Sears to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Schuette seconded the motion, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.




Robin Sears - Council President



Zeb Schuette- Councilman

Chris Sanders - Council Vice President

Attest: 

April Sanders, Clerk-Treasurer