

Town of Orland

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

September 08, 2025 Town Council Meeting

6:30pm

1. Opening prayer recited before meeting start.

2. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Public Hearing held at 6:35 pm to introduce the 2026 Town of Orland Budget Proposal. Council President Robin Sears opened the public hearing at 6:35 pm. President Sears presented the proposed 2026 town budget, which was crafted to be fiscally responsible while maintaining essential services and investing in the community. The budget was developed to address challenges like the new legislation of SB 1 and includes no raises for elected officials. The proposal allocates funds across various accounts, including the General Fund and a number of other funds, and balances immediate needs with long-term stability. The budget will be up for adoption on October 13, 2025. There were no questions or further discussion. Public Hearing was closed at 6:38 pm.

3. Council President Robin Sears called the meeting to order at 6:39 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. Maintenance Superintendent Phil Slisher was present.

Town residents Kevin Kellett, Jacob Springer, Steve and Becky Smith, Victoria Smith and Susan Smith were present in the audience.

4. Clerks Report - The clerk has submitted financial statements to the Council for approval and signature. Employee time sheets are scanned and provided in an email to council and, if available, they are signed by the Council President or Council Member at each payroll verification at the Town Hall prior to all council meetings. If no council member is available to sign off on timesheets, then payroll and timesheets are brought to the council meeting.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes- Town council reviewed the August 4, 2025 meeting minutes, the August 21, 2025 meeting minutes and the August 25, 2025 meeting minutes. Councilman Schuette made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 4th, 21st and 25th of 2025 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 August 5, 2025 through September 8, 2025 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 #17 and #18 of 2025, Council President Sears seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

5. Reports-

A. Street Department – Phil submitted his monthly report. Phil stated that Surf Internet is in town and has begun boring for fiber optic placement. Brief discussion of the crack found on the wall in the basement of the Community Center. Phil has fixed the leaking from the crack.

B. Police Department – Marshal Kline provided an update that he is working on applying for grants for police radios. There was fundraising that took place at the American Legion Block Party for a new police vehicle. Marshal Kline announced that Deputy Pfefferkorn has submitted his resignation and will be moving on to the Indiana State Police and thanked him for his service with the Town of Orland. Marshal Kline updated that they are still working on the ordinance violation with Nathan Sanders and will be furthering that endeavor. Town resident Kevin Kellett asked about a property out east of town and whether it was in violation. Some discussion. Marshal Kline will further investigate the property.

C. Water Department- Clerk-Treasurer Sanders spoke with Justin Stouder regarding the valve maintenance and mapping project. The project was nearing it's end with residential valves, but there were still mains and commercial to do. This project would also be something the town should consider on-going. Clerk-Treasurer Sanders was concerned that with the current availability of the Improvement Fund and the possible needs of the generator install exceeding the fund earmarked for it, that the valve and mapping project would need to be put on hold until after the generator is installed. Some discussion. Council agreed to have Phil, town maintenance to locate the 20 or some valves that have not been located yet. Town resident Kevin Kellett offered to help Phil to do some of the locates. Council thanked Kevin and agreed to allow the help. Council agreed to pause the valve maintenance and mapping project until after the generator is installed, reevaluate the Improvement Fund and go from there. Justin stated that the amount of locates that are being called in by Surf Internet has been overwhelming and he may need to call in a crew to help meet the deadline. If a crew is called in, the cost would be separate for the town outside of his normal monthly fee. Justin suggested if Phil was comfortable locating the lines, he would be ok with it as well. Phil agreed he could do it.

D. *Park Department*- Council President Sears stated that she was at Long Beach Island, New Jersey and there was a laser light placed on top of a building that shown down on the grass and it seemed to keep geese away. Clerk-Treasurer Sanders will look into. Council President Sears asked Councilman Schuette if he had heard from anyone with the Park Board about the information requested at the joint meeting. He stated that he has not heard from anyone. Council President Sears had requested information for the walk track because there was a donor interested in contributing to it. Council President Sears said she hopes we hear of something soon from the Park Board. Clerk-Treasurer Sanders presented the resignation from Tammy Slisher and a note of gratitude to the Town Council for her time working for the town.

6. Old Business-

A. *Chelsea Grider-RCAP Rate Analysis*- Clerk-Treasurer Sanders and Councilman Schutte met with Chelsea Grider from RCAP at the Town Hall on 9/4/25. They had a great discussion about the suggestions for water rate increases. However, earlier today, Chelsea had requested a little more information from Clerk-Treasurer Sanders and she was unable to get the information to her soon enough before the council meeting, so the information that was to be presented tonight was not quite ready. It should be ready for the October meeting. Some discussion about amending the town's leak forgiveness ordinance.

7. New Business –

A. *Discuss Ordinance 228-06*- Council President Sears asked to table this topic due the absence of Council Vice President Sanders.

B. *2026 Holiday Schedule*- Councilman Schuette made a motion to accept the 2026 Holiday and Meeting Schedule as presented, Council President Sears seconded the motion, motion carried.

C. *Art Program*- Council President Sears wanted to celebrate local artist and talented photographer Victoria Smith for the excellent artistic photograph she took in Orland of the moon and captured an airplane flying in front of it one evening in her back yard. Victoria chose the Bible verse Psalm 89:37 which reads, "It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah." The verse speaks of God's enduring promise, comparing it to the unchanging nature of the moon. The photograph was then processed by Terry Musclow by his process of spot color and 4 color process through printing each color separately on a one-color lithographic press. The art work will be on display at the Town of Orland Community Center for all to enjoy.

D. *Tim Simons Matter*- Clerk-Treasurer Sanders stated that DLZ contacted her and said the API can be on site this week on Vermont Street to finish the re-restoration of the project. DLZ needs to know how the Town wanted to proceed with the billing for the restoration. Some discussion. Council agreed for the betterment of the community that the Town, contingent upon, Mr. Simons signing an agreement with the Town agreeing to not alter the restoration or do any future unauthorized alteration to the right away, that the town would forego requiring him to pay this cost. Clerk-Treasurer will draft the agreement and have town attorney review and approve it.

E. SHI- Clerk-Treasurer Sanders reached out to Indiana Office of Technology and has been able to get a quote that would secure emails for the Town of Orland at a better price and on a more secure server for the Town. Some discussion. Councilman Schuette made a motion to accept the proposal for \$2,004.00 from SHI for 1 year of Google Workspace Enterprise Standard as presented, Council President Sears seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

No other 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 7:40 p.m.

Robin Sears – Council President

Chris Sanders – Council Vice President

Zeb Schuette- Councilman

Attest: _____
April Sanders, Clerk-Treasurer