

Town of Orland

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

November 10, 2025 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 6:31 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.

Also present:

Marshal Kline, Deputy Spires, Maintenance Superintendent Phil Slusher.

Town residents: Ida and Jonathan Miller, Jim Milleman.

Guests: Chris Emerick, Jesslyn Senecal, Ray Hagemeister, and John McKinley.

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 October 13, 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 October 14, 2025 through November 10, 2025 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 #22 and #23 of 2025, Councilman Schuette seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

5. Reports-

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

High-Tech Electric Quote – A quote of \$2,500 was received to wire the new light pole behind the library and complete additional pole light work. Due to cost exceeding \$2,000, Council directed Phil to obtain two additional quotes.

Walking Track Repair Bids – Two bids were received for the walking track resurfacing. After discussion, Council approved Quality Asphalt's bid of \$6,525. Motion cited lack of information on the other bidder. Councilman Schuette made a motion to accept the bid from Quality Asphalt in the amount of \$6,525.00 as presented and due to a lack of information for the other bidder, Council Vice President Sanders seconded the motion, motion carried.

Police Garage Wall Rot – Significant rot was found in the west wall of the police garage due to crushed asphalt being built up outside. Temporary sealing was completed; excavation and replacement of the damaged boards will be required.

Vermont Street Drainage Issue – Material pushed from an adjacent property has entered the drain and migrated into the catch basin under the road. IDEM and county representatives are involved; discussions continue about jurisdiction. Council recommended exploring the feasibility of a coffer dam and excavation due to freeze concerns. Councilman Schuette stated that City of Angola Wastewater Department could bring out a vac system to help clean out the inlet.

B. Police Department – Marshal provided his monthly report.

Key updates:

Staffing – Request to hire a fourth deputy to replace an officer who left for Indiana State Police.

Business Cards for Business Checks – Starting in December, deputies will leave periodic check-in cards at local businesses. Cards were presented to Council.

Training – Marshal Kline and Deputy Machete will attend Use of Force Analyst & Expert training in December.

Equipment Purchase – Marshal requested a refurbished Genesis II handheld radar for \$600 from Municipal Electronics. The unit has a one-year warranty. Councilman Schuette made a motion to purchase the radar unit as requested, Council Vice President Sanders seconded, motion carried.

Uniform Order Delays – Marshal noted continued delays in Star Uniform orders dating back to March.

Use of Church Building for K9 Training – Deputy Spires requested use of the recently purchased church building for K9 training with the Sheriff's Office. Council President Sears stated the building's future is still under discussion and permission could not be granted at this time.

- C. **Water Department**- Clerk-Treasurer Sanders updated that RCAP water plant audit findings presented: plant operating efficiently, no operational cuts recommended. Water rate adjustments only; hydrant rates unchanged. Rate hearing scheduled for December. Chelsea Grider, representative from RCAP was unable to attend due to a flat tire.
- D. **Park Department**- Representatives Ray Hagemeister and John McKinley attended on behalf of the Orland Tigers. They provided the following updates:
 - New organizational leadership is being established, including commissioners for football, baseball/softball, soccer, and cheerleading.
 - Concession stand winterization and cleanup responsibilities were reviewed.
 - League is responsible for field prep; town provides weekly infield mowing.
 - Coordination with Phil for schedules and maintenance requests was discussed.
 - Emphasis on youth development, anti-bullying, and sportsmanship.

6. Old Business-

- A. ***Ordinance 228-006***-Reaffirmed in New Business.
- B. ***Chelsea Grider- Update on Water Rates***- Discussed in Water Report.

7. New Business –

- A. ***Open Sealed Bids for Trash Contract***- One sealed bid was received from Washler, Inc. Bid details:
 - Address: 1686 Forest Park Drive, Garrett, IN 46738
 - Disposal Facility: Washler Recycling & Transfer Station #1709
 - 5-Year Pricing (per dwelling per month):
 - Year 1: \$15.50
 - Year 2: \$15.96
 - Year 3: \$16.52
 - Year 4: \$17.10
 - Year 5: \$17.79
 - Total 5-Year Contract Value: \$175,828.39

Bid was properly marked, opened publicly, initialed, and secured. The award will be made at the December 8 Town Council meeting.

B. Jonathan Miller-Zoning; New Home/Fence – Mr. Miller presented a request to erect a 50'×80' fence, up to 8 feet high on property zoned Agricultural (A).

Key Points

- Fencing up to 6 ft permitted in Residential (R), 8 ft permitted in Agricultural (A).
- Council confirmed height limits and setback rules.
- Materials proposed: fiberglass posts with metal components.
- Applicant directed to obtain a \$10 Fence Permit at Town Hall.

C. 2026 Appointments to ORC - All current commissioners agreed to continue service.

Appointments by Council President:

- Kevin Kellett
- Chris Sanders
- April Sanders

Appointments by Town Council:

- Brett Kellet
- Jimmy Milleman

Non-Voting School Board Advisor:

- Jesslyn Senecal (two-year term)

D. 2026 *Steuben Co EDC* - Jim Milleman agreed to continue serving as EDC representative for another year.

E. *Ordinance 2025-003 Reaffirming Ord. 228-006* – Town Council entered into an extended discussion concerning the status of the Park Board and the reaffirmation of Ordinance 228-006. Council President Sears explained that the issue was primarily financial, driven largely by uncertainty caused by SEA 1, which makes it impossible for the Town to predict future revenue with any confidence. She stated that many years ago the Park Board had been formally dissolved by Ordinance 228-006, transferring park authority back to the Town Council. The current Council, not realizing this past action, had inadvertently appointed a new Park Board, only discovering later that such appointments were not authorized unless the Town adopted a new ordinance formally reinstating the board.

Due to financial instability and the inability to guarantee project funding, President Sears expressed that she did not believe it was responsible to reinstate or continue the Park Board at this time. She emphasized that the volunteer members had worked hard, but the Council could not offer them meaningful direction, nor could the Town responsibly ask them to pursue grants or plan projects without assurance of the Town's ability to fund or support them. President Sears also noted the need to prioritize essential municipal services—such as police, water, and operations—over noncritical projects for the foreseeable future. The Council discussed two options: either adopt a new ordinance to reestablish the Park Board or reaffirm Ordinance 228-006, thereby dissolving the currently appointed board and keeping park authority with the Town Council.

Both Councilman Schuette and Council Vice President Sanders agreed that dissolving the Park Board was the fairest and most realistic option, noting the volunteers' time, effort, and the frustration they would likely continue to experience under such financial constraints. Ordinance 2025-003, drafted for the purpose of reaffirming the original Ordinance 228-006 and formally dissolving the present Park Board and its appointments, was then read. A motion was made by Councilman Schuette to accept Ordinance 2025-003, seconded by Council Vice President Sanders. Following a brief call for additional discussion, the motion

passed unanimously. Councilman Schuette made a motion to Waive the Second Reading and adopt Ordinance 2025-003 on the night of introduction, Council Vice President Sanders seconded, motion carried.

- F. *Approval of TIF Spending Plan for 2026*- The Redevelopment Commission's 2026 spending plan was presented and approved by council.
- G. *Proxess Access Control*- Clerk-Treasurer Sanders stated that Jacob Hildebrand of Proxess Access Control, contacted her and who had previously spoken with the Town Marshal about the possibility of implementing a keyless entry system for various town buildings. Clerk-Treasurer Sanders shared information and noted that Proxess offers a process through which the Town could transition to a fully keyless access system, replacing traditional locks with controlled electronic entry. While no formal action was requested at this meeting, the Council briefly acknowledged the information and the potential future consideration of access-control upgrades for Town facilities. Clerk-Treasurer Sanders stated she would not like to pursue this for her office doors at this time.

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

Clerk-Treasurer provided a brief update on Surf Internet and noted that complimentary service is not offered; Lakeland Internet service for cameras and public Wi-Fi would remain in place. Provided pricing options (\$85–\$175/month). Discussion about possibly increasing speeds for Clerk's office due to connectivity issues along with switching to VOIP phones to eliminate the costly bill with Frontier for phone services. Councilman Schuette made a motion to approve the Clerk-Treasurer to get internet through Surf Internet and VOIP phone services, Council President Sears seconded the motion, motion carried.

Marshal requested an additional monitor for viewing camera feeds; Council will consider.

Council Vice President Sanders said an opportunity has come up for the Town to purchase used playground equipment that is being removed from a government-owned housing complex in Angola. The equipment was described as being in very good condition, and comparable new equipment would cost approximately \$20,000 to purchase and install. The seller offered the entire set to the Town for \$1,000, with the condition that assistance be provided in helping dismantle and remove it. Additionally, for another \$1,000, his crew would come to Orland to help re-install the equipment, dig the post holes, and pour concrete for proper placement. The Council discussed whether funds were available, and it was suggested that the purchase be made from the Park Donation Fund, which currently has a little over \$5,000 available. Council members agreed this would align with prior intentions to upgrade playground equipment and would be an appropriate use of the donation fund. Some discussion also took place about where the new equipment might be installed and the deteriorating condition of the existing wooden playground structure at the park. Councilman Schuette made a motion to purchase the used playground equipment from Molter Construction and the cost of installation for \$2,000.00, Council Vice President Sanders seconded the motion, motion carried.

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 Vice President Sanders motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.



Robin Sears

Robin Sears – Council President



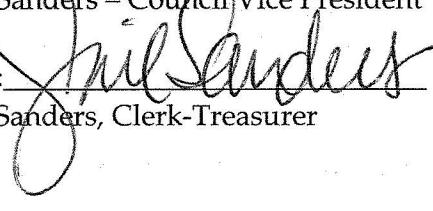
Zeb Schuette

Zeb Schuette- Councilman



Chris Sanders

Chris Sanders – Council Vice President

Attest: 

April Sanders, Clerk-Treasurer