

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
FEBRUARY 9, 2015

The meeting was opened by Mayor Harold Campbell with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin completed roll call:

Mayor- Harold N. Campbell

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- John Roche

Councilmembers-Brian Hatfield

Matthew Hurley

Michael Ochs

Connie Rayburn

David Shaw

Street Commissioner- Rick Marksberry

Chief of Police- James Webster

Fire Chief- Rick McGill

Park Director- Chad Speer (absent)

Water Superintendent- Mike Hess

Wastewater Superintendent- Russell Vaught (absent)

Golf Course Manager- Robin Brown

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Marcia McGill, Johna Wilson, Rodney Fessenburg, Dean Luers, Kody Luers, Brandon Smith, Ben Sieverding, Derek Wood, Bryan Buchanan, Mike Burkman, Ardell Mitchell, Mike Holliday, Rikki Webster, Jan Green, Calvin England, Eric Kirkham, Larry Risk, Tom Nienaber, Kyle Merkedick, Mike Andrus, Joe Miller, Gabe Cruser, Dave Gerth, Robert Black, Dave Bell, Randall Marshall, Rodney Black, David Dilk, Corinne Finnerty, Jeff Shinolt, Baron Wilder, Chris Ertel, Bryce Mayer, Don Biehle, Barbara King, Jared Thomas, and Denny Hatton.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting contingent on one change. (Page 2, paragraph 4 did not have the recorded vote of the motion to accept Ordinance #944.) The motion was seconded by Councilman Hurley. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Campbell and Fire Chief Rick McGill began the meeting by distributing thank you plaques and recognizing the many different fire departments and agencies that assisted the Fire Department and the City of North Vernon during the 5th Street Fire in November of 2014. Bryce Mayer was recognized for the photograph he took of the fire, which was used on the plaques.

Mayor Campbell and NVRC President Chris Ertel present Vernon Mayor Dan Wright with a check for \$10,000.00 in an effort to aid and partner with the Town of Vernon in the celebration of Vernon's 200th anniversary later this year.

Corinne Finnerty, attorney representing the City in its dispute with Madison Railroad, reiterated to Council that she recommends not signing either of the proposed agreements regarding the Short Street crossing unless the railroad is willing to add language to the agreement which states "without prejudice to the City's rights to reopen Short Street to vehicular traffic." No motions regarding either agreement were made.

Ardell Mitchell, representing Harmon Construction, presented Council with an agreement which would make Harmon Construction the construction/project manager for the City in its efforts to get the block of 5th Street devastated by the fire cleaned up. After a brief discussion, Councilman Ochs made the motion to enter into the agreement with Harmon Construction, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

The Utility Service Board needed a new member to replace Mr. Tony Eder. Councilman Hatfield made the motion to appoint Mr. Jeff Green to the USB, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion carried 5-0.

The next item on the agenda was the second reading and potential adoption of Ordinance #945-2015, an ordinance pertaining to USB resolution to amend the water service rates and charges. The ordinance calls for a 2% increase to rates each July over the course of the next three years. Councilman Hurley made the motion to accept the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief James Webster presented Council with a request to make changes police general orders #106, 107, 108, and 110. After a brief discussion of the changes, Councilman Ochs made the motion to accept the changes requested, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief Webster also presented to Council an agreement with the school corporation which allows the police department to use certified reserve police officers at the school when unable to assign a full-time police officer for services. The agreement also states that the school corporation will pay the officer directly and will not be paid through the City. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the agreement, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion carried 5-0.

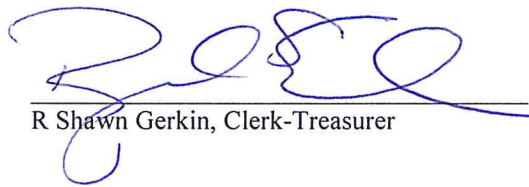
Chief McGill told Council that the top candidate for the position of fire fighter had been contacted and has accepted the position, subject to physical and psychological reviews being scheduled. He also again thanked the various fire departments, Council, clerk treasurer's office, various local businesses, and all those that helped in some way with the fire last November.

City Engineer Brad Bender told Council that he recommends the City wait a couple of months to discuss the service plans and responsibilities in regards to annexation. Also, redistricting would need to be done next year after the election.

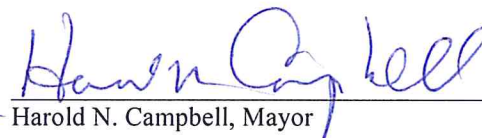
Councilman Hatfield made the motion to pay the claims presented, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion to pay the claims passed 5-0.

Councilman Hatfield made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Hurley. Motion to adjourn passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 P.M.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Harold N. Campbell, Mayor