

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
JUNE 13, 2016

The meeting was opened by Mayor Mike Ochs with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin completed roll call:

Mayor- Mike Ochs

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

Councilmembers-Brian Hatfield

Jack Kelley

Jerry Lamb

Connie Rayburn

Trent Wisner

Street Commissioner- Rick Marksberry

Chief of Police- James Webster

Fire Chief- Mike Cole

Park Director- Chad Speer

Water Superintendent- Mike Hess (absent)

Wastewater Superintendent- Russell Vaught (absent)

Golf Course Manager- Robin Brown

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Rhonda Deitsh, Jessie Deitsch, Chuck Waggoner, Jeff Shinolt, Alexis Hall, Barbara King, Marilee Barber, Toni Stinson, Randall Marshall, Paulette Meeks, Craig Kipper, Wes Thayer, Sue Beesley, Kathy McKalip, Nick Templeton, Mary Brown, Tom Brown, Todd Fleetwood, Todd Beam, Lucas Newson, and Miles Courtney.

Councilman Lamb made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2016 City Council meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief James Webster informed Council that the Board of Works & Safety had reviewed and approved the hiring of Kyle Hall as the newest police officer at their June 6, 2016 meeting. Councilman Kelley made the motion to approve the hire and ratify the position, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Ochs administered the oath to Kyle Hall with family, friends, and NVPD officers in attendance.

Marilee Barber and Toni Stenson discussed with Council the potential changes to the For Your Health Clinic. Changes to the clinic have been discussed but put on hold at this time. The two will return at a later date when more information is known.

Paulette Meeks, representing Legal Shield, presented a group rate offer to the City of North Vernon for services of Legal Shield. Permission was granted to reach out to department heads and schedule an informative meeting with City employees.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin completed the first reading of Ordinance #955, an ordinance known as the Jennings County Building Code. The county has adopted the ordinance and the City has historically followed the same code for consistency across the county. City attorney Larry Greathouse recommended that all the Council read the code. Second reading and potential adoption will occur at the next Council meeting.

Next on the agenda was the promulgation of Ordinance #956, an ordinance that, in essence, refinances the Sewage Utility's 2006 bond. Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin, along with attorney Sue Beesley, informed Council that he was able to secure a refinance rate on the bond that would save the Sewage Utility over \$940,000.00

over the next ten year period. He also noted that the length of the remaining payments would remain at ten years, as well as noting that the ordinance also effectively eliminates the TIF pledge on the original 2006 bond. After discussion, Councilman Lamb made the motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance #956, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0. At that time, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept and adopt Ordinance #955, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

Redevelopment attorney Chuck Waggoner presented Council with Resolution #2016-632, a resolution confirming the purchase of the property known as Ford's Crossing. After discussion, Councilman Hatfield made the motion to accept the resolution, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 4-1 (Lamb against).

Mr. Waggoner followed with a request from the NVRC to begin the process of looking for additional property to supplement a plan for expansion of the industrial park. Councilman Kelley made the motion to support the NVRC in looking for additional land, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Councilwoman Rayburn verified that the motion on the floor was to support looking for property, and not necessarily giving authority to purchase. After confirming, Councilman Kelley's motion was carried 4-0-1 (Lamb abstained.)

Councilman Wisner informed the group that he had received the maintenance contract for the generator at the sewage plant from Superintendent Russell Vaught and would use that as a template to take quotes for maintenance for the generators located at the fire station and the E.T.C.

Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin presented and completed the second reading of amended Ordinance #865, an ordinance setting the daily cash balances for various departments. The utility office recently decided to work from two separate, locked drawers instead of one, thus requiring double the amount of money to start each day with. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the amended ordinance, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0.

Next on the agenda was the seconded reading of amended salary Ordinance #950. The amended ordinance calls for a change to the salary of the fire chief from \$1474.43 biweekly to \$1727.53 biweekly. Councilman Wisner made the motion to change the salary of the fire chief retroactive to January 1, 2016 and approve amended Ordinance #950, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

City Engineer Brad Bender handed out the five year plan for a maintenance program for the streets, along with information on the 50/50 program the state is offering with the Community Crossroad Grants. FPBH recommends submitting to INDOT projects on old SR 3, Norris Avenue, and Madison Avenue. Discussion ensued on the amount of money the City could use for its portion of the match. Clerk Treasurer Gerkin pointed out that only 75% of the recent Special LOIT distribution was required to be used on streets, and that 25% could be used on whatever the City wished. Councilman Kelley made the motion to move forward with the grant application, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion turned to the shelter houses at the City Park. Mr. Bender recommended that Council reject the recent quotes for remodeling of shelter house #4 and get quotes to tear down the shelter house before the 4th of July weekend. Councilman Kelley made the motion to reject the quotes for remodeling and get quotes for demolition of shelter house #4, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0. Representatives for the farmers market discussed their willingness to support the building of a new shelter house by confirming they will pay up to \$50,000.00 for the construction of a new shelter house. A Board of Works and Safety meeting will be scheduled before the next Council meeting to open bids and award the job of demolition of the shelter house so it can be completed before July 4th.

Chief Webster informed those in attendance that a retirement party will be held at St. Annes golf course on Friday, June 24, 2016 to honor and celebrate the retirement of reserve officer Ted Westerman.

Golf Director Robin Brown said that 200 golfers showed up for the Eagles State golf tournament that was held at St. Annes golf course the previous weekend. He also requested that Council do a six month evaluation of his performance at the course as promised last fall in the near future.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin informed Council that he had renewed the agreement with Ivy Tech for an additional 12 month lease for use of the E.T.C. Building, but warned that the empty wing needs filled for the building to be self-supporting. He also told asked Council to consider bidding out the City's liability insurance as a local company expressed an interest. Finally, he asked attorney Larry Greathouse to look into the final ruling of the Department of Labor which has recently changed the salary threshold for the "white collar exemption".

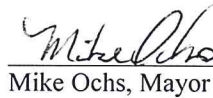
Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to pay the claims presented, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Wisner made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 P.M.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor