

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
1200 W O&M AVE, North Vernon, IN
MARCH 13, 2017 AT 6:00 PM

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

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Richard Morin, Barbara King, Chris Lowe, Russell Vaught, James Webster, Rick Lucas, Chad Speer, Matt Marshall, Jeff Green, Terry Thompson, Warren Alexander, Pat Kirchner, Robin Brown, Michael Cole, and Brandon Smith.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2017 City Council meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

The public hearing meeting for the proposed sewer project to the annexed area north of the city was completed. (See separate minutes for meeting)

Chief Webster presented Council with an amendment to Ordinance #875, on ordinance pertaining to the administrative fee for impounding vehicles. In short, the fee for impounded vehicles will increase from \$20.00, the amount of the original ordinance in 2007, to \$40.00 for each vehicle. After discussion, Councilman Kelley made the motion to waive the second reading of the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Kelley made the motion to accept the amendment to Ordinance #875, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief Mike Cole updated Council on the recent Board of Public Safety meetings in which the board expressed approval of making driver Brandon Smith both a driver for the department as well as a mechanic to service emergency vehicles for the fire department. After discussion on the job responsibilities and the money saving possibilities, Councilman Hatfield made the motion to create the position of driver/vehicle maintenance, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

Council agreed that the position of driver/maintenance comes with added responsibility and should have an increase in pay. Members of the Board of Safety recommended an increase in pay to \$37,500.00 annually for the position. Clerk Treasurer Gerkin presented the amended salary Ordinance #959. Councilman Kelley made the motion to waive the second reading of Ordinance #959 and move to a vote, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0. Council Kelley made the motion to adopt amended Ordinance #959, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief Cole informed Council of a used rescue vehicle available from the City of Rising Sun and requested permission from the Council to go to the North Vernon Redevelopment Commission for funding of the vehicle. Preliminary talks with officials for Rising Sun left the Chief believing they could obtain the vehicle for no more than \$20,000.00. Although no motions or action took place, Council gave their blessing to approach the NVRC for funding.

Council was presented with a quote from Smith's Bell and Clock, Inc. in Camby, IN to fix the clock located in the front of the Carnegie Building on Walnut Street. The quote, obtained by Mayor Ochs, included repairs to the clock, new laminate faces to replace the original design, and on site painting of the clock in the amount of \$5740.00. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to table the decision to accept the quote for repairing the clock until a later date, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

Council was presented with a written request from members of the Jennings County Big Brothers Big Sisters group to be a sponsor for their annual "Bowl for Kids' Sake" event. After discussion, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to be a "lane sponsor" for the event for the amount of \$125.00, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 5-0. The funds for the donation will be paid from the Council's civic interest budget.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the announcement that Bobby Ertel will be her appointed to the City Park Board, replacing Glen Carney.

Councilman Hatfield asked Mayor Ochs about the progress of the shelter house at the City Park. Mayor Ochs assured him that the shelter house is being done entirely with private donations and will not cost the City any money.

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

Rick Lucas asked Council for the opportunity to place a bid on the mowing of the City cemetery and the old Ford's Crossing golf course. Clerk Treasurer Gerkin said the request for quotes would have to be advertised for the cemetery and that Council would have to agree on the scope of the project for Ford's Crossing.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING FOR WASTER WATER SERVICE
1200 W O&M AVE, North Vernon, IN
MARCH 13, 2017 AT 6:00 PM

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

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Richard Morin, Barbara King, Chris Lowe, Russell Vaught, James Webster, Rick Lucas, Chad Speer, Matt Marshall, Jeff Green, Terry Thompson, Warren Alexander, Pat Kirchner, Robin Brown, Michael Cole, and Brandon Smith.

The North Vernon City Council conducted a public hearing on Monday, March 13, 2017 at the North Vernon Education & Training Center to discuss the wastewater service project to the northern boundary of the city annexed in February, 2015.

Richard Morin, engineer with RLM Engineering, discussed the project for those in attendance. He explained the project area, including serving an additional area that eliminates the need for two lift stations. He explained the current usage at the plant and that the plant had more than enough capacity to handle the additional wastewater from this project.

Mr. Morin went on to say that the proposed project would be funded by the Indiana SRF with a 20 year loan. A rate increase to current customers has yet to be determined. Efforts are being made to have the North Vernon Redevelopment Commission assist in funding the project. If no help is given, current users could see an increase in their sewer bill of 18% for the average user.


Mr. Morin also explained the need easements from property owners, as well as the new customers responsibility to properly abandon their current septic systems. Customers would also be required to pay a \$250.00 tap fee and a \$600.00 capacity fee when hooking up to the new sewer system.

Environmental considerations, such as wetlands, groundwater, air quality, etc. were discussed as well.


Barbara King asked council what the average citizen can expect to receive due to the annexed area.

The public may make comments on the project until Friday, March 17, 2017.

Councilman Lamb made the motion to conclude the public hearing on the proposed sewer project, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor