

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
DECEMBER 14, 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: Cavin England, Larry Malcomb, Thomas Moore, Brandon Smith, Brian Horton, Mike Gilpin, Randall Marshall, Jeff Shinolt, Nick Megel, Dave Stocks, Trent Wisner, Barbara King, Randy Shepherd, Jack Kelley, Mark Holwager, and Marcia McGill.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the minutes of the November 23, 2015 City Council meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 5-0.

Wayne Stearns was present to ask Council about the progress of the capital improvements to the annexation area. He told Council that the extension of the City sewer was important to him and other property owners in the area and reminded the Council those in the area did not fight the annexation in anticipation of the sewer hookup. Mr. Stearns also reminded Council that it was his interpretation that the project would be completed in three years. Mayor Campbell and the Council commented briefly on their knowledge of the progress of the project, but told Mr. Stearns he would be better served to contact Wastewater Superintendent Russell Vaught on the issue, as well as attend the next Utility Service Board meeting for better answers to his questions.

Fire Chief Rick McGill presented Council with two transfer requests from within the fire department budget. The request included transferring \$9000.00 from line 101-000-07-102 (Volunteer) to line 101-000-07-406 (building) to help cover costs of overhead door repairs and \$15,000.00 from line 101-000-07-102 (Volunteer) to line 101-000-07-216 (Hose, Lights, Equipment) to purchase equipment. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Hurley. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief McGill reminded Council of his previous request to move positions from fire chief to assistant chief. Councilman Ochs said that according to IC 36-4-4-4, hiring of positions within the police or fire department is the responsibility of the Board of Public Safety, not that of the City Council. It was announced a Board of Public Safety meeting would be held on Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 9:00 AM to further discuss the position. No motion or action took place at this time.

Police Chief James Webster informed Council that the Board of Public Safety had met on December 10, 2015 to discuss a violation of internal policy by Detective Brandy Blevins for conduct unbecoming an officer. The Public Safety Board's recommendation included a demotion in rank from detective to patrol, which includes a deduction in pay. Councilman Shaw made the motion to approve the salary change and to ratify the position of Officer Blevins, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief Webster also presented Council with a review of the police department's general orders. Change requests were made for orders #72, 78, 90, 98, 105, 106, 107, and 110. After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the changes to the general orders, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin completed the second reading of Ordinance #951, an ordinance establishing the salaries of North Vernon's elected officials for 2016. Councilman Shaw made the motion to approve the ordinance as written, seconded by Councilman Hurley. Motion to pass Ordinance #951 passed 4-1 (Ochs against).

Dave Stocks informed Council that the VFW had moved their possessions to the old clerk treasurer's office in the front of the building on 275 Main Street, with the back room still being used for overflow property. The three offices in the back of the building will now be used to conduct parole interviews as discussed at a previous Council meeting.

Golf Course Manager Robin Brown informed Council that the course has 37 2016 members to date and that the new website was up and running.

Water Superintendent Mike Hess said that the work on the water main near O&M and North State Street would be completed in the next couple of weeks. He also stated that Wastewater Superintendent Russell Vaught had asked him to relay to Council that Greensburg Street would not be closed to traffic until after school was out next summer. Also, \$200,000.00 had been set aside in the wastewater's 2016 budget for design work for the annexation project.

Mayor Campbell and Councilman Shaw had recently made a trip to Sellersburg to Century Industries, Inc. to design the mobile stage recently approved by the NVRC and the City Council. Councilman Ochs made the motion to proceed with the purchase of the order for the state, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Campbell read a letter sent to Chief Rick McGill and the City of North Vernon's Fire Department by Barb Buzard on behalf of the entire family in the department's involvement of saving the life of her father, Richard Berkemeier, on April 10, 2015.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin brought up the previously discussed City drug testing policy. Mr. Gerkin said at this time, only the police department and CDL drivers were a part of the City's random drug testing pool. Councilman Ochs made the motion to put all City full time employees in the random pool, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 5-0. Clerk Treasurer Gerkin said he would inquire in to whether other cities and towns also include part-time and/or elected officials.

The next City Council meeting will be held on December 28, 2015 at 6:00 PM, the regularly scheduled time.

Mayor Campbell told those in attendance that the model trains on display, recognizing the history of North Vernon's Railroad Days, had been donated recently to the City of North Vernon. They had previously been part of a collection by Mr. Jim Reddicker.

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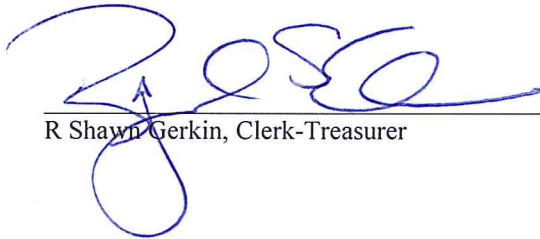
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Councilman Shaw made a motion to approve the payment of claims presented, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion to pay the claims passed 5-0.

Councilwoman Rayburn informed Council that she had received an email by Kitty Shepherd on behalf of the Jennings County Coordinating Council requesting additional funds for the Christmas baskets the organization gives out during the Holidays. Councilman Ochs made a motion to give the Coordinating Council an additional \$1000.00 from the Council's Civic Interest fund, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 P.M.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Harold N. Campbell, Mayor