

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
MAY 23, 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

Golf Course Manager- Robin Brown

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Randall Marshall, Jeff Shinolt, Barbara King, Melinda Gabbard, Marie Shepherd, and Ray Hughes.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2016 City Council meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

Melinda Gabbard, representing S&M Holdings, LLC, told Council that they would like to sell the property at 1511 East Buckeye Street to the City of North Vernon for a price of \$498,000.00, subject to appraisals. No action or motions were made.

Marie Shepherd, Area Plan Director, and City Engineer Brad Bender presented Council with a rezone request from B&T Management Company on property commonly known as 605 and 621 South State Street. The request is to rezone the property from Residential Duplex and Commercial to Commercial Planned Business. Councilman Lamb made the motion to waive the two week waiting period for the request, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0. Councilman Lamb subsequently moved to grant the rezone request, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

Brad Bender, along with Park Director Chad Speer, presented Council with a rezone request for the North Vernon City Park to bring the park into compliance with the Jennings County Unified Zoning Ordinance by rezoning 28 acres from Residential Single Family to Institutional. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to waive the two week waiting period for the request, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0. Councilwoman Rayburn then made the motion to accept the rezone request, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief James Webster asked Council to review and approve various changes made to the police department's general orders. After a brief discussion on the proposed changes, Councilman Wisner made a motion to accept the changes to the general orders, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief Webster went on to explain that the contract between the City of North Vernon and the Jennings County School Corporation, created to provide the school with a school resource officer, had been approved and signed by the school system. The agreement, in short, calls for the City to provide an SRO to the schools during the time school is in session and for the school to compensate the City at a rate of \$40,000.00 annually, for a period of three years. After discussion, Councilman Hatfield made the motion to enter into the contract with Jennings County School Corporation, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

Fire Chief Mike Cole requested from Council release of the fire department's remaining portion of CCD funds, for purchase of ALS equipment to begin a paramedic side of the fire department. Quotes had been received for the desired equipment at prices of \$11,887.46 and \$10,156.72. Councilman Wisner made the motion to release \$10,156.72 from CCD funds to the fire department, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief Cole went on to explain to Council that he had been verbally offered \$45,000.00 from Mayor Ochs for the position of Fire Chief. The City matrix calls for a first year fire chief to be compensated an annual salary of \$38,335.00. Clerk Treasurer Gerkin explained that matrix and salary ordinance is set by City Council and that Chief Cole could be compensated \$45,000.00, but only if Council approved an amendment to the 2016 salary ordinance. Attorney Larry Greathouse instructed the clerk treasurer to put the change in an amended salary ordinance and the decision to grant the change could be considered at the next meeting. Councilman Hatfield made the motion to table any decision on the change at this time, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin explained that Ordinance #865, which sets the beginning cash change balances for various departments within the City, needed to be amended. The utility office, currently with a \$200.00 balance, wishes to increase the amount to \$400.00 as they begin to work out of two separate cash drawers. The change was requested in the form of an amended ordinance in writing and would be reviewed at the next Council meeting.

City Engineer Brad Bender informed Council that the Road Audit Inventory & Ratings System, required for federal funding on future projects, had been completed. Also, a meeting is scheduled for 1:00 P.M. on Tuesday, May 24 at FPBH to discuss the future of Shelter House #4. Finally, Mr. Bender said all information and options for street lights in the recently annexed area had been received from Duke Energy. An upfront cost of \$22,205.56 was recommended to move forward with lighting the new area of town. Councilman Kelley made the motion to move forward with the street lights, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Hatfield asked Mr. Bender to look at the sidewalk work completed by Dave O'Mara Contractors during the Irish Hill Rehabilitation portion of Stellar as some were already starting to deteriorate.

Chief Webster provided Council with a resignation letter from long time NVPD Reserve Officer Ted Westerman. Mr. Westerman has given 23 years of his time to the department.

Park Director Chad Speer told Council that shelter house #4 has been rented an average of 15 times per year of the previous few seasons. Also, the City pool was scheduled to open Saturday. Finally, 63 teams competed in the recent weekend tournament at the park.

Golf Director Robin Brown stated that Dave O'Mara Contractors came out Wednesday and Thursday to repave the parking lot at St. Annes Municipal Golf Course. Striping would be completed soon. Also, 180 players were scheduled to play for the Eagles State Tournament at the course on June 4th and June 5th, in an effort with Shadowood Golf Course in Seymour to host the tournament this year.

May 23, 2016 City Council Minutes
Page 3


Councilman Hatfield made the motion to approve the claims presented, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion to pay the claims was approved 5-0.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 P.M.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor