

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER  
JULY 11, 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

Wastewater Superintendent- Russell Vaught

Golf Course Manager- Robin Brown

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Jeff Shinolt, Randall Marshall, Kitty Shepherd, Randy Shepherd, Burt Gibson, Bev Gibson, Gene Rudicel, Morgan Russell, Trevor Miller, and Tiffany Lowe.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the minutes of the June 27, 2016 meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0.

Randy and Kitty Shepherd asked Council for use of the new stage for the upcoming baby pageant at the Jennings County Fair, scheduled for July 13, 2016. Council explained that they have yet to set a cost for stage rental and agreed to let the Board of Public Works & Safety meet to discuss terms and conditions for rental of the stage. With the Board of Public Works & Safety set to meet on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the stage, it was agreed that they would determine at that meeting whether or not to allow the baby pageant access to the stage on Wednesday night.

Tiffany Lowe, on behalf of Trevor Miller and Integrated Health, asked Council for permission to use Stellar Park on the night of July 29, 2016 for an outdoor movie night. Costs associated with the event would be completely absorbed by Integrated Health for the event, with plans to show a family oriented movie to the public, free of charge, to promote the park and downtown. Mr. Miller arrived at this time and echoed those same sentiments, adding that the Park Theatre had also been contacted to see if they would like to participate by opening up their concession stands for the event. After further discussion, Councilman Kelley made the motion to allow use of Stellar Plaza for the night of July 29, 2016, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

Burt Gibson and Morgan Russell were present to discuss the potential for de-annexation of property that they and several others own off of Hutton Road. The City maintains they have completed their responsibility by providing sewer to the area as it was plotted the day of annexation. Property owners maintain they cannot afford to run sewer to their properties, which were sold in lots by the original owner after being annexed in the City. The City's sewer use ordinance prohibits septic systems inside the City limits. City Attorney Larry Greathouse invited them to his office to discuss an amicable solution to the situation, so long as their attitude toward the solution was not "de-annexation or nothing". Council agreed and recommended they meet with Mr. Greathouse. No motions or actions took place.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin completed the first reading of Ordinance #957, an ordinance establishing a rainy day fund pursuant to Indiana Code 36-1-8-5.1. He explained to Council that the City has had a rainy day fund for years, with ordinances dating back to at least 2003 that reference the Rainy Day Fund. But according to Indiana Code, a Rainy Day Fund must be established by ordinance, but one can't be found. Perhaps the fund was created by a simple motion, but to be in line with the statute, Clerk Treasurer Gerkin recommended "re-establishing" the fund by way of ordinance. After a short discussion, Councilman Kelley made the motion to waive the first reading of the ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0. Councilman Kelley subsequently made the motion to adopt Ordinance #957, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Ochs presented Council with two transfer requests from within the Mayor's budget. First, he requested to transfer \$1000.00 from Gas/Auto (101-000-01-306) to Equipment (101-000-01-416). Second, the Mayor requested a transfer \$1000.00 from Gas/Auto (101-000-01-306) to Training (101-000-01-308). Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve the two requests, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0.

Wastewater Superintendent Russell Vaught informed Council that Greensburg Street would remain closed until September 12, 2016 due to construction at the plant for the Long Term Control Plan. They had originally planned to reopen the road on August 1, but instead of opening and then have to close again, opted to just keep the road closed until completion. Radio, newspaper, and school officials have been notified of the change.

Fire Chief Mike Cole presented to Council and discussed his vision of a five year plan for the fire department.

Water Superintendent Mike Hess told Council that work would begin to get water from the quarry to the water plant before the end of the year.

Park Director Chad Speer informed Council that the youth softball and baseball seasons were completed and signups for fall soccer would begin soon. A tournament with 70 teams is set to take place at the park this weekend. Finally, the live entertainment that was set to take place on the Fourth of July but cancelled due to weather has been tentatively rescheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin told Council that the closing for the refinance of the 2006 sewer bond was set to take place on Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

Council requested that Clerk Treasurer Gerkin contact Windstream CEO Dan Bates and ask him to appear at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Hatfield made the motion to pay the claims, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion to pay the claims approved 5-0.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.



R. Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor