

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
JULY 13, 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 (absent)

Michael Ochs

Connie Rayburn

David Shaw

Street Commissioner- Rick Marksberry

Chief of Police- James Webster

Fire Chief- Rick McGill

Park Director- Chad Speer

Water Superintendent- Mike Hess

Wastewater Superintendent- Russell Vaught (absent)

Golf Course Manager- Robin Brown

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Cheryl Trisler, Jeff Shinolt, Wes Bradshaw, Joe Hall, Susie Hall, Curtis Burton, Jack Kelley, Barbara King, Chris Lowe, Cavin England, and Don Geer.

Councilman Ochs made the motion to accept the minutes of the June 22, 2015 City Council meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 4-0.

Fire Chief Rick McGill informed the Council that at the earlier Board of Public Safety meeting that the board had unanimously voted in favor of hiring Curtis Burton as for the position of North Vernon Firefighter. After a brief discussion of the candidate, Councilman Ochs made the motion to accept Curtis Burton as North Vernon Firefighter, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 4-0. Mayor Campbell subsequently swore in Mr. Burton with his family by his side.

Ardell Mitchell, project manager on the 5th Street Restoration Project for the City, informed Council that the "Notice to Proceed" for demolition of the buildings had been given to Holman Construction on July 10, 2015. The contractor will start a barrier installation later this week with clean up beginning on Monday, July 20th. The "Notice to Proceed" causes the substantial completion to be September 7, 2015 with final completion of the project by October 7, 2015. Mr. Mitchell will conduct bi-weekly progress meetings at Harmon's office with the contractor until the end of the project. With safety a primary concern, Mr. Mitchell requested a motion from Council to close Amvets Drive from 5th street to 7th street from Monday, July 20, 2015 until September 7, 2015. Councilman Hatfield made the motion to temporarily close the street, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 4-0.

Joe and Susie Hall were present to bring Council up to date on an issue they are having with a neighbor at 283 Oakridge Drive. They have contacted both the Board of Health and the Area Plan Commission regarding the trash in the yard and a person apparently living in a tent in the yard. A court date has been set for July 31, 2015 and Mr. and Mrs. Hall requested that the City officials formally support them, the Board of Health, and the Area Plan in addressing the issues at the property. Although all Council members voiced their concern with the property in question and discussed filing a formal complaint, City Attorney John Roche said it would be inappropriate at this time to write a letter or make a motion until the courts have made a decision.

Area Plan Director Cheryl Trisler was present to with rezone requests for the Council. Up first was a rezone requests from the Board of Trustees of the Wesleyan Church, represented by Don Geer. They would like to rezone the property at 22 E Poplar Street from Residential Duplex to Institutional to bring the property into compliance with the Jennings County Unified Zoning. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to waive the first reading of the request, seconded by Councilman Hatfield, motion carried 4-0. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the rezone request, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 4-0.

Wes Bradshaw, representing Diamond B Properties LLC, was present to ask for a rezone of the 4760 square foot lot at 321 N State Street from Commercial to Residential Duplex. After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to waive the first reading of the rezone request, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion to carried 4-0. Councilwoman Rayburn then made the motion to grant the rezone request, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion carried 4-0.

Roger Morgan, owner of Morgan Rentals and Morgan Lawn Care Enterprise, was present to ask for a rezone request at 2130 West CR 200 N. They are requesting property be rezoned from Agricultural and Commercial Planned Business to Institutional for construction of a reception hall and future development of a restaurant and campground. Most of the property is located outside the city limits but a small portion is inside city limits. Councilman Ochs made the motion to waive the first reading, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Councilman Shaw said that he's all for the project, but thinks the Council is getting in the bad habit of waiving the first readings on rezone requests, and that with a project this large, felt it was best to give wait until the next Council meeting to vote on the request, giving the public time to voice concerns for the project, should they have any. After a discussion on the topic, the vote to waive the rezone request was 2 for (Ochs, Hatfield) and 2 against (Shaw, Rayburn). Mayor Campbell casted the tiebreaking vote by voted against waiving the first reading of the rezone request. Council will vote on the rezone request at the next Council meeting on July 27, 2015.

Discussion of the City's contract with the E.D.C. for management services on the E.T.C. building was on the agenda, but EDC director Kathy Ertel could not make the meeting. Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin informed Council that she and EDC board member Albert Jackson expressed they would like to meet as soon as possible to discuss the future of the building, as well as coming up with a new contract. The current contract for management services on the building expires on July 15, 2015.

Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin told Council the City needed to formally file a petition to appeal for an increase to the maximum levy should they desire. Frank Cummings, City financial consultant with GFC, LLC, has recommended the City appeal to increase the maximum levy by \$62,441 due to the City's recent annexation. After a brief discussion, Councilman Shaw made the motion to appeal for an increase to the maximum levy, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 4-0.

Water Superintendent Mike Hess informed Council that he had received the results from IDEM for the water in the quarry. They found that the water tested showed nothing in the way of chemicals or toxins that were over the acceptable limits for drinking water.

Chief Webster said there is a City Ordinance which requires those to properties within the City Limits to clean up trash in their yards, and that he'd be willing to work with Street Superintendent Rick Marksberry on the property at 283 Oakridge Drive if necessary.

Chief McGill informed Council that the test had been completed on the aerial truck and the truck had passed, but the truck does need work which may come at a substantial cost in the near future.

Park Director Chad Speer said that registration for fall soccer will begin next week and spoke briefly on the upcoming tournaments which will be held at the park, and how much money the park receives from the events.

Golf Course Manager Robin Brown told Council that, to date, 26 of the old golf cars had been sold in hopes of raising enough money to buy more new ones in the near future. The City recently purchased 35 new golf cars, at which time they were offered \$200 per working car as trade in. Mr. Brown had told the Board of Public Works that he believed the golf cars could bring more money selling to individuals. The golf cars were priced from \$200 in nonworking condition up to \$800 for some of the cars that were in better condition. The 26 golf cars sold so far have brought in \$12,800.00. Mr. Brown told Council the course would like to ultimately buy 15 more new ones, giving the course a working fleet of 50 cars.

City Engineer Brad Bender told Council that he had received a price from Duke Energy on work for the previously discussed CEDIT projects on West O&M Ave and Hurley Drive. Mr. Bender provided the Council with an updated cost for the two projects in hopes of starting the projects now, bidding in August, and completed in mid-November. Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin told Council he would get them updated financials for the CEDIT fund and a decision on what projects to move forward with could be made at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Shaw made a motion to pay the claims presented, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion to pay the claims passed 4-0.

Councilman Hatfield made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 P.M.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Harold N. Campbell, Mayor