

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
JULY 25, 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 (arrived at 6:25)

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, Marie Shepherd, Brad Kage, Dave Shaw, Keith Stearns, Betty Lou Land, Sue Fenton, Terry Thomas, Jeff Shinolt, Judi Brown, Scott Brown, Pam Lovegrove, Troy Lovegrove, Dan Bates, and Chuck Waggoner.

Councilman Lamb made the motion to accept the minutes of the July 11, 2016 City Council meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 4-0.

Sue Fenton invited those in attendance to "Food Truck Friday", set to take place the last Friday of each month at the North Vernon City Park.

Mayor Ochs informed those in attendance that August 13th would be Mayor's Day for the Farmer's Market.

Area Plan Director Marie Shepherd and APC Attorney Brad Kage were present to tell Council that no bids were received for work to potentially be done on the home of Robert and Maryann Shuck on Jennings Street. Mr. Kage and former director Cheryl Trisler had approached the Council last fall and were told that bids would need taken for any work completed on the house that the City might consider paying. The next step in the process will be to go back to the Area Plan Board and discuss other options. Many neighbors on Jennings Street were in attendance and all spoke on the poor condition of the property, how it hurt their own property values, how the house has become a safety and health concern, and how they wish the property would be condemned and destroyed. No motions or actions took place at this time.

Windstream Technologies CEO Dan Bates updated Council on the state of his company. The company has experienced a slowdown and has laid off all but 8 employees at this time. Mr. Bates explained he is working with a group from North Carolina to bring fresh, new capital to the business, and that the employees that have been let go have a tentative call-back date of mid-August. Mr. Bates went on to say that the company has paid back over \$250,000.00 to the City on the \$1.4 million dollar loan and that his company has injected \$2.9 million dollars to local vendors and had a payroll of \$6.0 million since 2012. The original terms of the City's loan to Windstream called for a balloon payoff in mid-August, and Mr. Bates hinted that the company will need to ask for an extension for the payoff. City Attorney Larry

Greathouse said he would review the original promissory note, but until the loan was in default, there wasn't any action needed.

Next on the agenda was a review of requirements to rent the recently purchased stage. Clerk Treasurer Gerkin explained to Council the costs and stipulations to rent the state that the Board of Works and Safety recently agreed upon. They included:

- 1) Stage costs will be \$300.00 for the first day, and \$100.00 per additional day, for nonprofit organizations within Jennings County.
- 2) Stage costs will be \$1000.00 for the first day, and \$250.00 per additional day, for businesses or for-profit organizations within Jennings County.
- 3) The stage will not be rented to organizations outside Jennings County at this time.
- 4) Those wishing to rent the stage will need to apply for rental at least 30 days before the scheduled event.
- 5) Those renting the stage will be required to sign a "hold harmless" agreement and provide a certificate of liability insurance.
- 6) Those renting the stage will be required to pay a \$500.00 refundable damage deposit.
- 7) Approval for the rental of the stage will be done by the Board of Public Works and Safety, and include a "site visit" by the street superintendent to determine the feasibility of parking the stage at the desired location.

After discussion, Councilman Wisner made the motion to approve the stipulations for renting the stage, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0.

Wastewater Superintendent Russell Vaught told Council that Greensburg Street is scheduled to reopen permanently on September 12th.

City Engineer Brad Bender explained to Council that to be eligible for the Community Crossing Grant from INDOT, the Council needed to commit to funding for the projects which had been applied. Mr. Bender and Clerk Treasurer Gerkin have been working together to make sure funding was in place from the special LOIT distribution, CEDIT funds, and the City's Rainy Day Fund. Councilman Kelley made the motion to commit funds for the recently agreed upon projects, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 4-1 (Lamb opposed).

Police Chief James Webster requested a Board of Public Works and Safety meeting to discuss the newest police applicant.

Fire Chief Mike Cole informed Council that as of August 7th, firefighters would go on 24 hour shifts instead of 12 hour shifts. He also discussed the possibility of hiring an additional firefighter or two.

Golf Director Robin Brown said 28 teams participated in the Eric Thompson Memorial Golf Scramble held at St. Annes last weekend. Councilwoman Rayburn requested an executive session to discuss Mr. Brown's job performance, which was promised by Council last fall.

Park Director Chad Speer said signups have begun for fall soccer and will last until August 12th. There are also plans to start a volleyball league and a pickle ball league soon. The pool will be closed after August 1st. Councilman Kelley asked Mr. Speer to get input from the Park Board as to their expectations for a new shelter house and report back to Council.

NVRC Attorney Chuck Waggoner informed the Council that the NVRC had met and confirmed the resolution to expand the City's TIF zone.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to pay the claims presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 P.M.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor