

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER  
JANUARY 9, 2017

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 (absent)

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Duane Barkes, Lynda Barkes, Emily Barkes, Pat Touey, Chuck Schmitt, Mike Barnes Jr., Pam Barnes, Mike Barnes, Sr., James Miller, Larry Biehle, Shelley Biehle, Tim Hunt, Russell Vaught, Marcia McGill, Rick McGill, Chad Speer, Wes Thayer, Alexis Hall, Kyle Hall, Jeff Shinolt, Randall Marshall, Ryan Gassaway, Jill King, Barbara King, Jeremy Jones, Rachel Jones, Jeff Patterson, and Jason Sanders.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2016 City Council minutes as written and presented, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Ochs confirmed that his 2017 appointments remained unchanged from his 2016 appointments.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to elect Brian Hatfield as council president for the 2017 year, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 3-0-1. (Hatfield abstained)

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to elect Jerry Lamb as council vice president for the 2017 year, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 3-0-1. (Lamb abstained)

Chief Webster reviewed the Board of Public Works & Safety meeting held on December 29, 2016 for the council. During that meeting, the board approved the appointment of Isaac Barkes as the newest police officer for the City of North Vernon by a vote of 3-0. After a brief discussion, Councilman Kelley made the motion to confirm Isaac Barkes as the newest police officer, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 4-0. At that time, Mayor Ochs performed the oath of office ceremony to Officer Barkes with family and friends in attendance.

Chief Cole introduced Tyler Morris as the City of North Vernon's newest firefighter. Mr. Morris had previously been approved by the Board of Public Works & Safety and by Council pending approval from PERF. Mayor Ochs performed the oath of office ceremony to Mr. Morris with family and friends in attendance.

Mike Barnes, owner of Phat Guys Bar in North Vernon, was present to ask Council to considering amending and/or clarifying the City's current noise ordinance. Mr. Barnes claimed that without the use of a decibel meter or other electronic form of measuring noise, it comes down to an opinion whether or not someone thinks the music from his bar is too loud. Mr. Barnes also stated that amending the ordinance to allow for later music on Saturday and Sunday nights would help his business. He claims he's done his best to soundproof the building and is willing to work with the City and the neighbors, but has exhausted what he can do at this time. The owner has been cited by police for violation of the ordinance several times.

After input from Chief Webster and a short discussion, council decided to table the discussion until the next meeting so they could gather additional information. No motions or action took place at this time.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin presented to Council an amendment to the 2017 salary ordinance. After a brief explanation of the changes, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve the amendment, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 4-0.

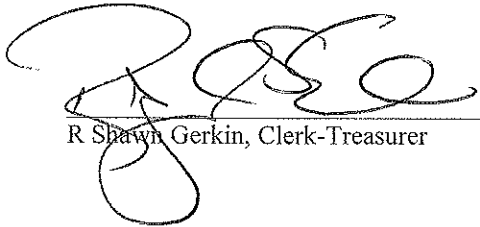
Councilman Kelley made the motion to nominate Councilman Hatfield as the Council's appointment to the Area Plan Commission, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 3-0-1. Additional Council appointments for 2017 will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Councilman Kelley asked where we stood on the building of a new shelter house. Mayor Ochs responded that it is being taken care of by a private entity.

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

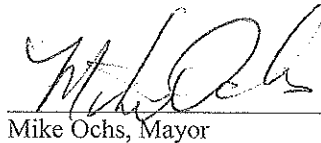
Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion to adjourn carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 P.M.



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R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



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Mike Ochs, Mayor