

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER  
FEBRUARY 13, 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

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Randall Marshall, Chad Speer, Ham Wernke, Richard Morin, Marcia McGill, Rick McGill, Jason Sanders, Barbara King, and Jeff Shinolt.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2017 City Council meeting as written and approved, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

Fire Chief Mike Cole informed Council that Gloria Banister had been approved as the City's next full time firefighter by the Board of Public Works and Safety at their January 27, 2017 meeting. Mayor Ochs administered the oath of office to Ms. Banister with family, friends, and fellow firefighters in attendance.

Jeff Hardin and Kurt Schneider, with the Johnson-Melloh Company, reviewed with Council their energy plan to turn the City of North Vernon solar. The idea behind the project started at the North Vernon Airport 18 months ago, and has grown into a plan to include all city buildings and street lights. There was a lengthy discussion of the potential savings for the city, taking control of energy costs, the maintenance agreement, and production reports. After discussion, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve Johnson-Melloh for the project contingent on financing and attorney approval, seconded by Councilman Kelley. After discussion, the motion was amended to move the matter to the city attorney, city

clerk treasurer, and city engineer for review and recommendation, including consideration of approved financing and then seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin presented Council with Resolution #640, a resolution re-establishing the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. He explained that the fund is used to make equipment purchases for the police, fire, and street departments but is currently not at the maximum allowed rate of \$0.05 per \$100.00 of assessed value. After discussion, Councilman Kelley made the motion to approve Resolution #640, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

At the Council meeting on January 23, 2017, bids were opened for the Community Crossroads Matching Grant project, in which Dave O'Mara Contractors were the low bid at \$444,703.25. City Engineer Brad Bender recommend to Council that the bid be awarded tonight. Councilman Kelley made the motion to award the bid for the CCMG project to Dave O'Mara Contractors, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief James Webster informed Council that the police had reviewed and made various changes to General Orders # 84, 90, 93, 98, 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, and 110. After discussion of changes, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve and accept the changes, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

Paul "Ham" Wernke returned to discuss his request to Council to enforce their own weed and grass ordinance at the property on West Walnut Street that is adjacent to Stoneridge Subdivision. Mr. Wernke was told a letter had been sent to the property owner from the Jennings County APC commission instructing the owner to remove an old car and clean up debris from the property, and that City Street Commissioner Rick Marksberry would send the property owner a letter informing the owner of the need to keep grass and weeds cut below 12 inches, per the City ordinance.

USB Engineer Richard Morin and Wastewater Superintendent Russell Vaught told Council that the USB had reviewed the PER for sewerage the annexation area and a public hearing was needed for the project. It was announced that the public

hearing would take place at the Council meeting on March 13, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the ETC building at 1200 W O&M Avenue.

Councilman Lamb made the motion to pay the claims presented, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion to pay the claims approved 5-0.

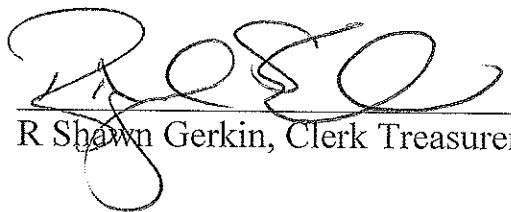
Clerk Treasurer Gerkin informed Council that he had attended the most recent NVRC meeting explaining that he felt the sanitary sewer project for the annexed area was more of a Council and City project than a USB project, and financial help was expected from the NVRC for the project. He reminded Council that a rate increase of 20% would need to be imposed to sewer customers without the help of the NVRC and encouraged Council members to contact NVRC members to communicate the Council's expectations for the project.

Council asked clerk treasurer Gerkin to advertise for a joint City Council and USB executive session for Monday, February 27, 2017 at 5:30 PM to discuss personnel.

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



Mike Ochs, Mayor



R. Shawn Gerkin, Clerk Treasurer