

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
143 EAST WALNUT, N VERNON, IN 47265
JUNE 12, 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: Barbara King, Chris Lowe, Jeff Shinolt, Jeff Amick, David Heilman, Shirley Arney, Melissa Newland, David Bishop, Jason Sanders, Marie Shepherd, Kate Eder, Chuck Waggoner, Trevor Miller, Dave Bishop, and Kevin Dougherty.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2017 City Council meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

Jason Sanders, representing Erler Industries, was present to request the vacation of New Street from the Council. Erler Industries owns the property on both sides of the street. After discussion, Councilman Lamb made the motion to vacate the street, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0. Formal paperwork must be signed in the clerk's office, followed by the advertisement of a public hearing and mailings sent to affected property owners before an official vote can be taken.

David Heilman, Melissa Newland, and Shirley Arney, representatives from Centerstone, were present to explain the services and help they offer to the community at their 1260 East Buckeye Street location.

Kevin Dougherty and Dave Bishop explained their idea to host a free concert in downtown North Vernon on August 19, 2017. They requested from Council use of the city stage, as well as \$1500.00 seed money to get the event kicked off. The idea is to use the grassy knoll on 5th Street for seating with the stage in the alley behind the property. Food vendors and a beer garden will also be available. After discussion of permits, insurance, and traffic, Councilman Kelley made the motion to move forward with the event and give the \$1500.00 seed money from the City's Festival Fund, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 4-1 (Lamb).

Area Plan Director Marie Shepherd accompanied Jeff Amick for his request to rezone 1.99 acres of property from Commercial and Agricultural to Commercial Planned Business. The applicant wishes to sell portable buildings, gazebos, play sets, and furniture at the site, located at 2165 North State Hwy 7. Councilman Kelley made the motion to approve the rezone request, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

Marie Shepherd presented a variance request from Robert and Ashley Cox to place an above ground pool at their property located at 108 Hoosier Street. They would like to place the pool 27 feet from the center of both Hoosier and Washington Streets. A 50-foot setback is required. After discussion of the project, including how close the pool would sit to the sidewalk, along with concerns of sight issues for traffic, Councilman Lamb made the motion to disapprove the variance request, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 5-0.

Trevor Miller and Kate Eder presented Council with their idea for a City-wide cleanup of trash, specifically larger items. Ideas included doing the cleanup in conjunction with United Way's "Day of Caring" to having the sanitation department do a pickup of larger items every couple of months. Council was open to the idea and asked them to coordinate with street commissioner Rick Marksberry and Jerry Lamb to gather more information and determine a plan to make the project work.

Utility Superintendent Russell Vaught and Water Superintendent Bryan Lane asked Council for support in getting the NVRC to financially support the installation of water hydrants and sewer to the recently annexed area of the City. The request will be a one-time fee of \$165,000.00 for the hydrant installation and an annual commitment of \$250,000.00 for the sewer project. Council discussed trying to work with Jennings Water on a better price for the hydrant installation. No motions or action took place. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to request the annual \$250,000.00 commitment from TIF for financing the sewer project, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin read Resolution #643-2017, approving a Declaratory Resolution and Economic Development Plan of the NVRC. The resolution is another step in putting the recently annexed City property into the TIF zone. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept Resolution #643-2017, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board of Public Works and Safety, after reviewing multiple applicants and interviews, recommended Lynn Wierick for the new City Maintenance position to the Council. After discussion, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve Mr. Wierick for the new position, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin presented amendment Ordinance #959, the ordinance setting the salaries of employees for 2017. The changes include adding Lynn Wierick to the ordinance with a biweekly pay of \$1384.62 and raising the pay of Utility Superintendent Russell Vaught to \$2891.64 biweekly, as voted and approved by the USB at their last meeting. After discussion, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve amended Ordinance #959, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 4-1 (Kelley).

Chief Webster asked for a Board of Works meeting to be scheduled. A Board of Works and Public Safety meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 9:30 AM.

Chief Cole discussed future staffing for the fire department.

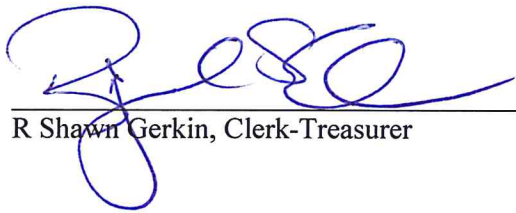
City Engineer Brad Bender explained to Council that the INDOT match for the Community Crossroads Matching Grant project for 2018 is a 75/25 match, an increase from last year's 50/50

match. Mr. Bender has been working with Clerk Treasurer Gerkin on the City's portion of the match and will have a list of projects for the grant soon.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor