

**PUBLIC BOARD OF WORKS & SAFETY
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
AUGUST 2, 2021 @ 9:30 a.m.**

The meeting was opened with roll call by Asst. Clk. Treasurer Rita L. Elmore,

Board Members: Mike Ochs
Jerry Lamb
Trent Wisner

Attorney: Larry Greathouse
Clerk-Treasurer: R. Shawn Gerkin
Asst. Clk. Treasurer: Rita L Elmore

Guest present: Chief of Police Keith Messer; Fire Chief Mike Cole and Tanya Burnette.

Board Member Lamb made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2021 as written and presented; seconded by Board Member Ochs, motion carried 3-0.

Chief of Police Messer recommended to promote Lucas Newsom to the evening shift Sergeant position in the NVPD with a starting date of August 15, 2021. Board Member Wisner made the motion to approve the appointment of the position to Lucas Newsom; seconded by Board Member Ochs, motion carried 3-0.

Tanya Burnette reported to the board of an email received from Tim Sidwell informing of a statue available from the City of Charlottesville, Virginia which is depicting Explorers Lewis & Clark and their Native American, Sacagawea. The city is accepting offers on this statue and Mr. Sidwell has offered to donate his time and semi-truck to pick the statue up and bring it back to our county. No action was taken.

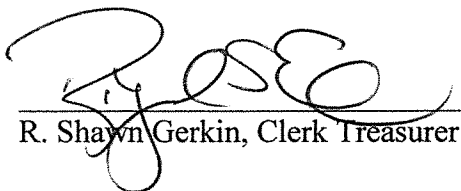
Also, Tanya Burnette reported that Melvin Marksberry w/Street Dept. is not comfortable installing the new flag poles at the current City Building. No action was taken.

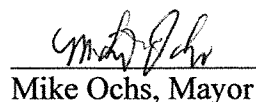
Board Member Wisner questioned Chief of Police Messer of any updates on the NVPD Building; Chief stated that this was put on hold until 2026 due to any regulations for the Stellar monies received on the Main Street project. Chief of Police Messer did make contact with two engineering firms to discuss new police building at no cost to the city.

Board Member Ochs made the motion to approve payment for the claims that were submitted for payment; seconded by Board Member Wisner, motion carried 3-0.

At 9:55 a.m., Board Member Ochs stated if there was no further business to discuss he would make the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Board Member Wisner, motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned.


R. Shawn Gerkin, Clerk Treasurer


Mike Ochs, Mayor

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE BUILDING
AND VIA ZOOM
AUGUST 9, 2021

The meeting was opened at 6:00 by North Vernon 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	Baron Wilder
	Jack Kelley	Trent Wisner
	Jerry Lamb (arrived @ 6:10)	

Guests Present: Chad Speer, Robin Brown, Ray Hughes, Tim Hunt, Billy Dorsett, Bill & Sharlot Ertel, Lucas Newsom, Keith Messer, Kylan Higgs, Jeff Shinolt, Craig Kipper, Andrew Richmond, and Michael Holliday.

Jack made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2021 city council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief Keith Messer requested the ratification of the Board of Public Safety's decision to promote Patrolman Lucas Newsom to position of Sergeant. Jack made the motion to approve the promotion per the recommendation of the chief and approval of the safety board, and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 4-0.

Chief Messer presented council with recommendations to the department's General Orders for numbers 50-59. Trent made the motion to adopt the changes recommended and the motion was seconded by Jack. Following discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

Chief Messer also mentioned that the Jennings County High School football team planned to use a cannon to celebrate touchdowns during sanctioned sporting events for the fall 2021 season.


Tim Hunt announced that there would be a public information meeting for the Walnut Street Project held at the NVETC Building on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. Discussion also included the recommended requirements for building a driveway off of South Gum Street across the Muscatatuck Trail by Mr. Marvin Polly.

Council continued their discussion from previous meetings that they are adamantly opposed with allowing residents to live on the ground floor of buildings in the downtown commercial district. City Attorney Larry Greathouse reminded the council that the county agreed to any amendments to the joint city/county ordinance specific to the city. Baron made the motion that in all instances, variance requests inside the city limits must have final approval by the city council prior to taking effect. Jack seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion carried 5 -0.

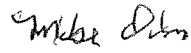
Billy Dorsett voiced his concern about the lack of supervision at the city pool over the summer, specifically the use of vulgar language and kids smoking and vaping in the bathrooms and around the premises. No motions or action took place.

Brian made the motion to pay the claims presented and the motion was seconded by Baron.
Motion to pay the claims carried 5-0.

Trent made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion to
adjourn carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.



R Shayn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NORTH VERNON EDUCATION & TRAINING CENTER
SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2021

The meeting was opened at 4:00 pm by Clerk Treasurer Shawn Gerkin with roll call:

Mayor- Mike Ochs

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

Councilmembers: Brian Hatfield
 Jack Kelley
 Jerry Lamb (absent)

Baron Wilder

Trent Wisner

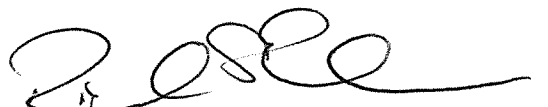
Guests: Will Spencer, Russell Vaught, Nikki Hatfield, Cara Byerley, Rob Beal, Keith Messer, Tanya Burnette, and Cecelia Ellis.

City Attorney Larry Greathouse explained to council that the decision needed to be made to either do something or do nothing in regards to the COVID-19 virus and how it can affect employees of the city. His recommendation to put a policy in place that would protect the city from a future negligence lawsuit by doing nothing. In short, he recommended that the council either mandate that employees receive the COVID-19 vaccine or put policy and procedure in place if a mandate is not required.


Council members discussed their opinions on a mandate, and heard from those in the audience regarding the vaccine and their opinions of the vaccine. Jack made the motion to mandate the vaccine for employees of the City of North Vernon in an effort to protect them from the virus. The motion died for lack of a second.

Larry advised reaching out to the city's contracted HR Department to get direction on a policy to put in place knowing that the vaccine would not be mandated. Baron made the motion to go forward on hearing recommendations for a policy created by HR with the decision not to mandate the vaccine and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 4-0.

Trent made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE BUILDING
AND VIA ZOOM
AUGUST 23, 2021

The meeting was opened at 6:00 by North Vernon 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 (absent)	Baron Wilder
	Jack Kelley	Trent Wisner
	Jerry Lamb	

Guests Present: Chad Speer, Will Spencer, Russell Vaught, Robin Brown, Mike Cole, Keith Messer, Tanya Burnette, Marie Shepherd, Tim Hunt, Kathy Ertel, Kylan Higgs, Jeff Shinolt, Glorianna Robbins, Tyler Morris, Gloria Banister, Chad Bruner, and David Teyber.

Jack made the motion to accept the minutes of the August 9 and August 18, 2021 city council meetings as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 4-0.

Chad Bruner and David Teyber, represented Love's, were present to request a rezone request on behalf of Eugene Rudicel. Mr. Rudicel would like to rezone 11.679 acres +/- from parcel 40-09-29-100-018.004-004 from Residential Single Family & Commercial to Commercial Planned Business. The property will be used as a new location for Love's. Trent made the motion to approve the rezone request and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 3-0-1 (Jerry abstained).

Police Chief Keith Messer presented council with recommended changes to General Orders 61, 62, 63, and 67. Items discussed included video evidence, voluntary statements, and Blue Alerts. Jack made the motion to approve the recommended changes and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0.

Shawn completed the first reading of Ordinance #1001-2021, an ordinance establishing a policy for electronic participation by members of the North Vernon City Council. The second reading and potential adoption will be on the September 13th agenda.

Council was presented with a list of recommended COVID-related precautions to adopt in light of deciding not to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for city employees. Suggestions include policies for masks, social distancing, testing, contact tracing, and absences. The policies were recommended and written by the city's contracted human resource department at New Focus HR. Jack made the motion to adopt the recommended policies and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 3-1 (Trent opposed).

Upcoming city events require partial street closures. The Solar Flag Raising ceremony on September 9th will close the portion of Madison Avenue from the tracks to Main Street for a couple of hours in the morning. Sweet Street is set to take place on October 31st from 5-8 PM and requires the closure of Madison Avenue from Main Street to East Walnut Street. The annual

Christmas in the City parade will require the closure of Madison Avenue and Walnut Street from Jennings Street to East Buckeye, as well as a portion of 5th Street on December 4th from 5 PM until completion. Jack made the motion to approve the temporary closures for all three events and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 4-0.

Tanya Burnette and Glorianna Robbins discussed Sister Cities International Program and requested support. The program is designed to promote national and international peace and security, as well as an opportunity to build connections and share professional experiences between two international cities. Annual cost for the program membership is \$300.00.


Chief Messer asked council to allow former NVPD Officer Nick Megel to purchase his duty weapons. The city has historically allowed retired officers the choice to do so if desired. Trent made the motion to allow the purchase of his patrol rifle (\$650.00) and backup handgun (\$300.00) and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0.

The public hearing on the city's 2022 budget will take place on Wednesday, October 13th with adoption scheduled for Monday, October 25th.

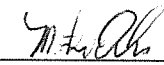
Other items discussed without motions or action included paving projects and the CCMG application, work to be completed at the golf course, the ordinance prohibiting flags, signs, and banners in city limits, and the purchase of benches for the Park Theater.

Jerry made the motion to pay the bills presented and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 4-0.

Trent made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor